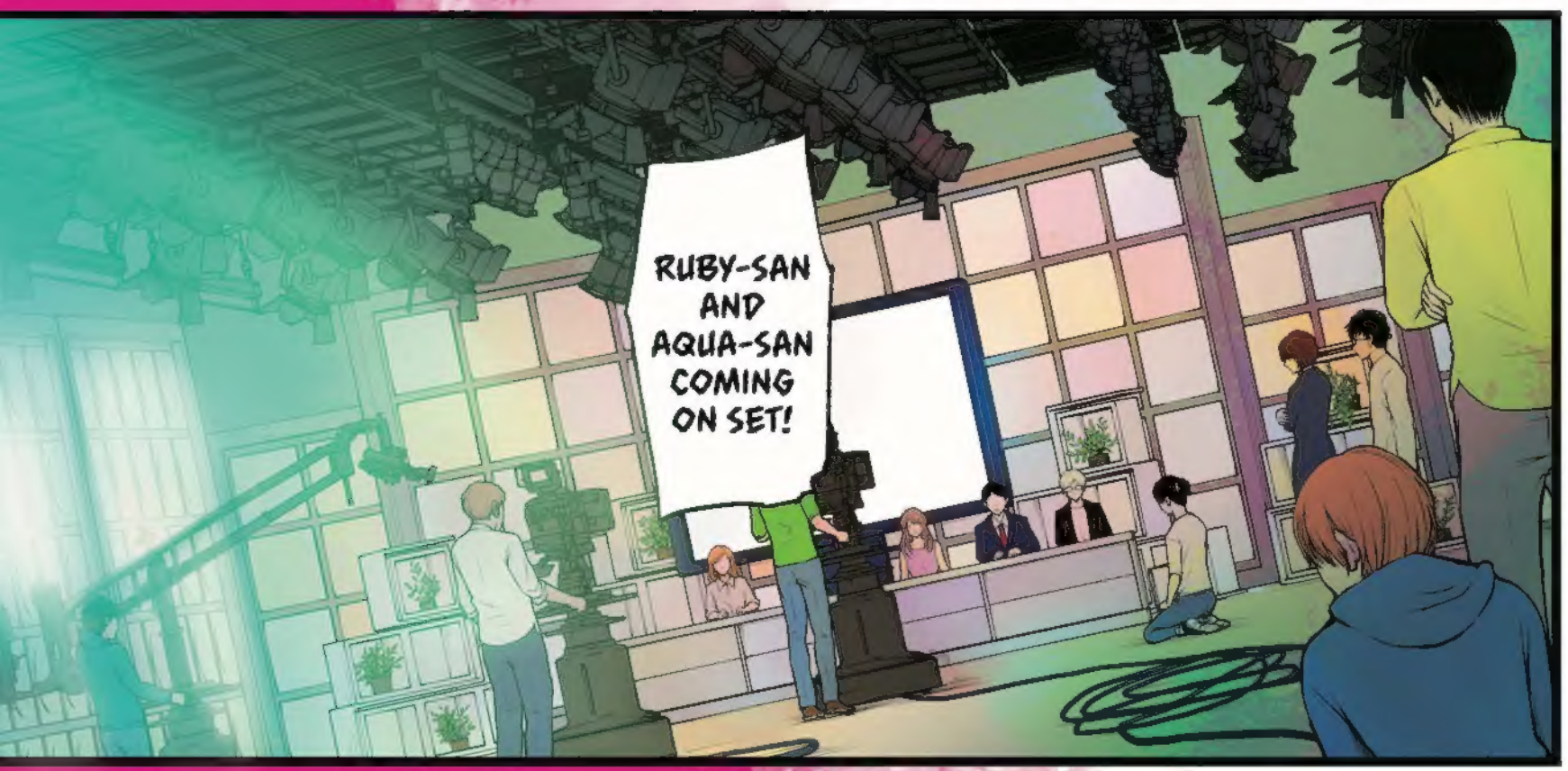
【推しの子】

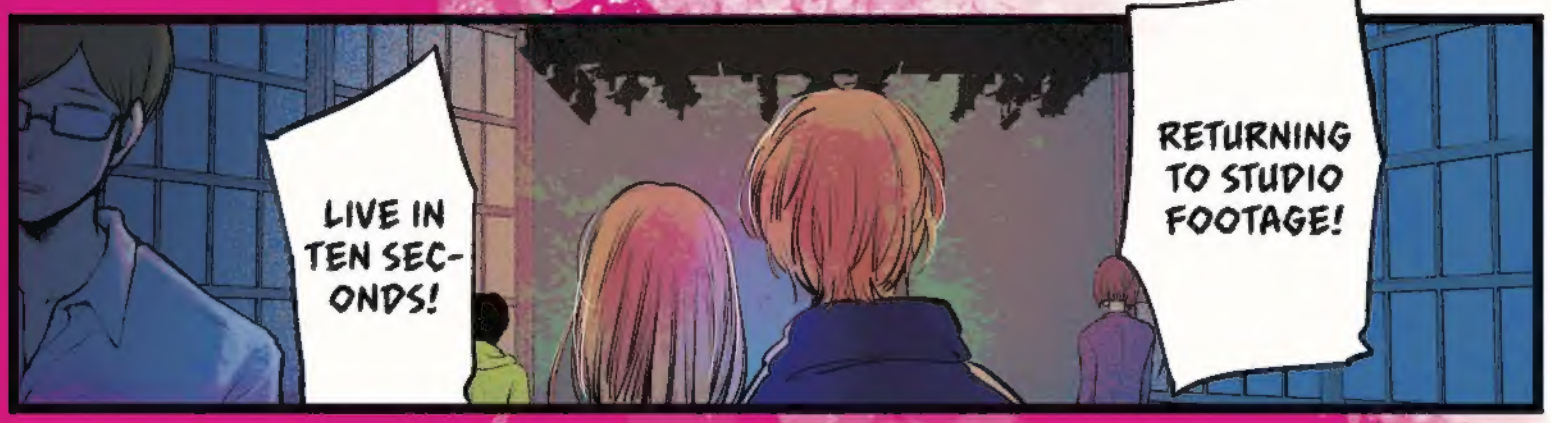
赤坂アカ × 横槍メンゴ

YOUNG JUMP COMICS

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT IT'D BE LIKE IF YOU WERE BORN AS THE CHILD OF A CELEBRITY?



IF YOU HAD BOTH LOOKS AND CONNEC-TIONS FROM BIRTH...



【推しの子】
OSHI NO KO
IF THE TICKET TO THE WORLD OF SHOW-BIZ...
...WAS IN YOUR HANDS FROM THE VERY BEGIN-NING...
CHAPTER 1
AKA AKASAKA x MENGO YOKOYARI

OSHI NO KO ❶ CONTENTS

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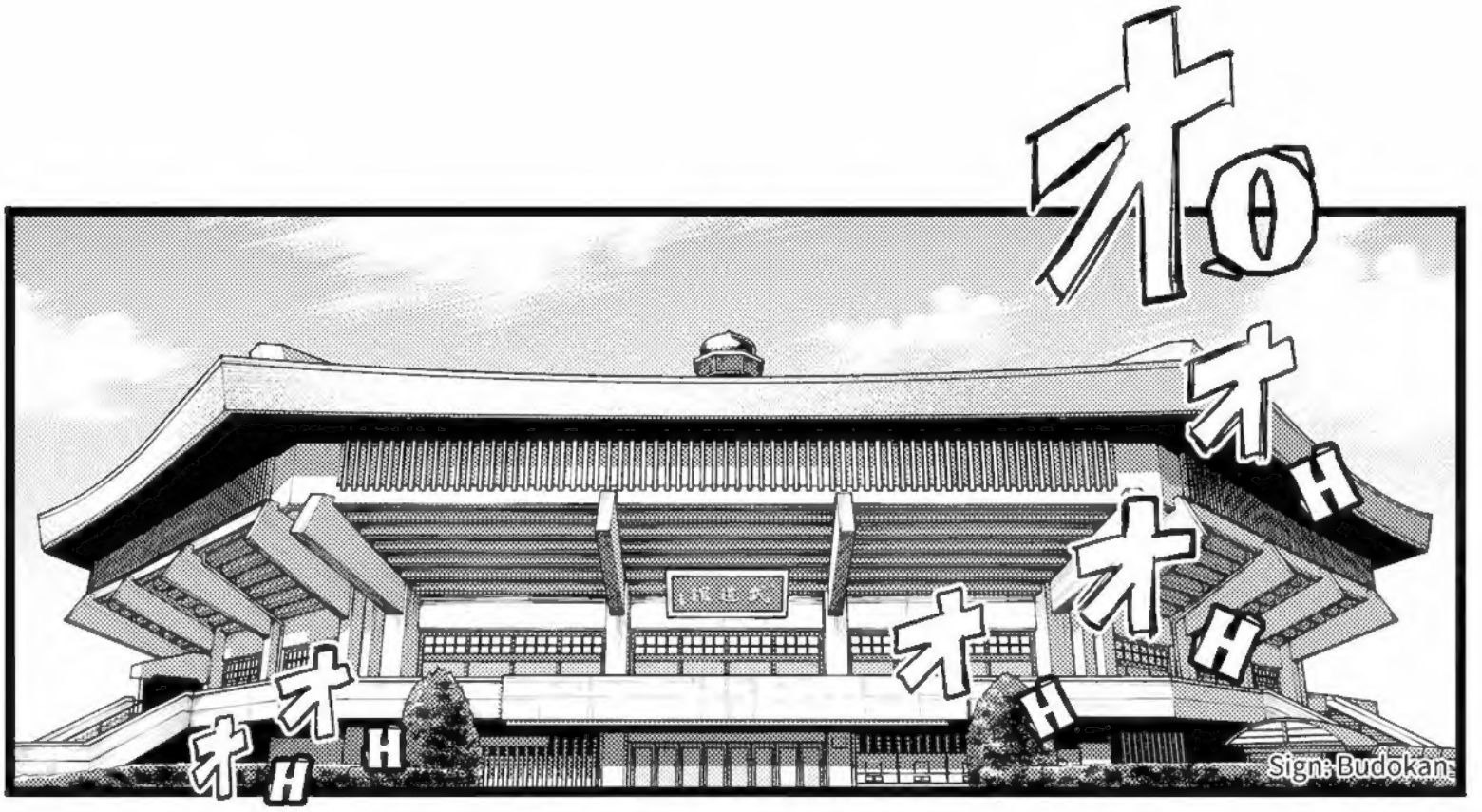
★この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などには、いっさい関係ありません。
Ripped & Compiled by Oak

This story is a work of fiction.



Translated by Minna Lin
Lettered by YKS Services, LLC
Edited by Jordan Reynolds
MEDIA DO Co. Ltd. / YKS Services LLC / SKY Japan, INC.

THEY FABRICATE LIES...

...EXAGGERATE...

...AND HIDE THEIR DIRTY LITTLE SECRETS.

IN WHICH CASE...

...IDOL FANS ARE THE ONES WHO WANT THEM TO BE GOOD AT LYING.

THIS IS THE ABSOLUTE ACE OF THE IDOL GROUP **B-KOMACHI.**

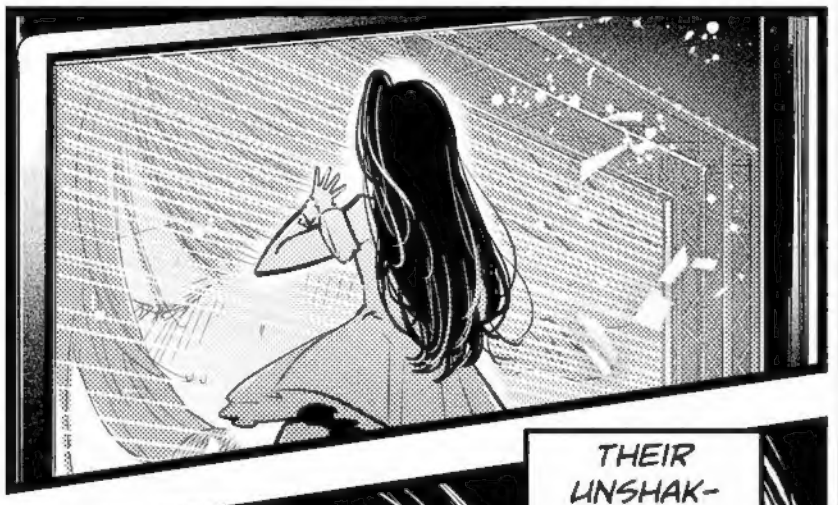
I WANTED TO WORSHIP HER CUTE-NESS IN PERSON...

AHHH-HHH...

IN THIS WORLD...

AI !!!

...LIES ARE WEAP-ONS.



THEIR UNSHAK-ABLE CENTER POSITION, A SIX-TEEN-YEAR-OLD ULTI-MATE BEAUTY BY THE NAME OF...

...AI.

IT'S BEEN FOUR YEARS SINCE THE GROUP FORMED.

THEY'VE SLOWLY BEEN GAINING POPULARITY...

...AND MEDIA EXPOSURE.

IT FEELS LIKE THE WORLD HAS FINALLY CAUGHT ON!!!

THIS IS IT!

HER PATH TO STARDOM HAS OPEN—

DOCTOR.

COULD YOU WATCH THAT STUFF AT HOME?

WHY ARE YOU PLAYING AN IDOL DVD IN A PATIENT'S HOSPITAL ROOM?

DON'T YOU HAVE ANY COMMON SENSE?

SEEING BEAUTIFUL THINGS IS GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH.

THAT IS MY OPINION AS A DOCTOR.

YOU'RE JUST EVANGE-LIZING, AREN'T YOU?

Goro
Occupa-tion:
OB-GYN

SPEAKING OF WHICH, DOC...

SHE WAS TRENDING ON TWIT-TER JUST NOW.

Oita

Kumamoto

Here

Miyazaki

IDOL CONCERTS DON'T HAPPEN OUT HERE IN THE STICKS...

SO THIS IS *PART OF OUR MEDICAL PRAC-TICES.*

PLEASE DON'T MAKE THAT OUR HOSPITAL'S OFFICIAL POSITION.

WHAAAT?!

14:56

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B-Komachi's Ai Goes on Hiatus Due to Poor Health

I'm worried...

Poor

AI IS GOING ON HIATUS?!

THAT'S THE ONE THING I DON'T WANT TO HEAR.

SHE'S SIXTEEN, ISN'T SHE?

YOU LOLICON.

You're creeping me out, frankly.

I SEE...

YOU REALLY ARE OBSESSED WITH THAT IDOL...

SOB SOB SOB

I'VE GOT A REASON FOR THIS, ALL RIGHT?

...BUT THIS IS THE SAME HOSPITAL WHERE I DID MY RESIDENCY.

DOCTORS GET TRANSFERRED AROUND A LOT...

AT THE TIME...

201

...I OFTEN SLACKED OFF IN PATIENT'S ROOMS, JUST LIKE I DO NOW.

DO YOUR JOB.

ONE OF THE PATIENTS I MET BACK THEN...

CHANGED MY DESTINY.

AND THIS GIRL IS MEIMEI!

SHE'S GOOD AT DANCING!

UH HUH...

ARI-PYON AND KYUN-PAN ARE THE BEST AT SINGING...

BUT MY FAVORITE ONE...

Sarina
Patient

...CAN ONLY BE AI!

IF I CAN BE REBORN, I WANT TO HAVE THIS FACE...

MOST OF ALL, HER FACE IS SO PRETTY...

SHE'S THE SAME AGE AS ME, BUT SHE'S MATURE AND GREAT AT SINGING AND DANCING!

YOU HAVE NO SENSE OF ASPIRATION, DOC.

DON'T BE STUPID.

REBORN?

IF YOU HAD BOTH LOOKS AND CONNECTIONS FROM BIRTH?

NOPE.

YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY ASPIRATIONS, HUH?

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT IT'D BE LIKE IF YOU WERE BORN AS THE CHILD OF A CELEBRITY?

AREN'T YOU ALREADY CUTE, SARINA-CHAN?

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE REBORN.

JUST BECOME AN IDOL AFTER YOU GET DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL.

I'LL ROOT FOR YOU WHEN YOU DO.

REALLY?

HUG

MARRY ME!

I LOVE YOU, DOC!

STOP IT. I'LL GET CAN-CELLED.

...SIX-TEEN, HUH?

I'LL CONSIDER IT WHEN YOU TURN SIXTEEN.

TOO BAD.

YOU MORALIST.

IT'S A REALISTIC PLAN, RIGHT?

YOU'RE A MEANIE.

DOC...

SHE WAS ONLY TWELVE YEARS OLD.

ANAPLASTIC ASTROCYTOMA...

I JUST WANT TO SEE HER WALKING THE PATH SHE DREAMED OF.

I SEE.

I MUST'VE BEEN SEEING SARINA-CHAN... SUPERIM-POSED ON THE IDOL SHE LIKED.

IF SHE WERE STILL ALIVE TODAY, SHE'D BE SIXTEEN, THE SAME AGE AS AI.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE A ***LOLICON***.

WERE YOU EVEN LISTEN-ING?!

THAT WAS ***A PRETTY TOUCHING STORY***, WASN'T IT?!

BUT IF THAT "AI" GIRL ASKED YOU OUT, YOU'D DO IT, WOULDN'T YOU?

NON-SENSE!

I SWEAR BY SARINA-CHAN'S NAME THAT I'M SUPPORTING AI WITH THE PUREST OF INTENTIONS!

AREN'T YOU JUST ***RELEASING YOUR DE-SIRES***, USING SARINA-CHAN AS AN EXCUSE?

SOMETHING FEELS CRUDE ABOUT THE WAY YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH HER.

診察室

Sign: Examining Room

WHAT'S WRONG, DOCTOR?

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'D SWEAR BY SARINA-CHAN'S NAME?

WELL, LUNCH BREAK IS OVER.

BACK TO WORK.

...

SLIDE

スー

NO, NO.

I NEED TO FOCUS ON THE TASK AT HAND.

UMM... THIS IS YOUR FIRST VISIT, RIGHT, HOSHINO-SAN?

YES.

RIGHT, SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

I HOPE SHE MAKES A SAFE RECOV-ERY.

AI'S IN POOR HEALTH, HUH?

I'M WOR-RIED ABOUT HER...

BASED ON HER BELLY, SHE'S ABOUT TWENTY WEEKS IN.

THIS IS PRETTY LATE FOR A FIRST EXAMINATION.

AGE SIXTEEN.

NO WONDER. SHE HAS "CIRCUMSTANCES."

THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO COMES THIS FAR WITHOUT BEING ABLE TO CONSULT WITH ANYONE, I GUESS.

ARE YOU HER FATHER?

ON PAPER, YES...

SHE WAS RAISED IN AN ORPHANAGE...

...SO I'M MORE LIKE HER LEGAL GUARDIAN OR GUARANTOR.

I SEE.

A SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD ORPHAN...

I FEEL LIKE I'VE HEARD THAT STORY BEFORE.

IT REMINDS ME OF THE IDOL—

NO PROB-LEMS THERE!

IT WENT SMOOTHLY TODAY.

...

SHE'D BE DEAD BY NOW IF THAT WERE THE CASE...

HAVE YOU CONSID-ERED THE POSSIBILI-TY OF ***EX-TREME CONSTIPA-TION...?***

HOW IS SHE, DOCTOR?

PLEASE WAIT WHILE WE GET THEM SET UP.

WELL, LET'S DO THE TESTS FIRST.

KA-CHAK

WHAT?! IS SHE THE REAL DEAL?!

WHOA, WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!!!

AI IS SOOO CUULITE IN PERSON~!

OH MY GOD~!

NO, I'VE BEEN HER FAN FOR YEARS! I'D NEVER MIS-TAKE SOME-ONE ELSE FOR HER!

COULD SHE BE A LOOKA-LIKE?!

MY FAVORITE IDOL IS PREG-NANT!!!

ビクッ JOLT

ドロオ SLAM

THAT'S NOT IT!!!

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW TOO!!!

TELL ME...

WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?

AI...

I'M GOING TO THROW UP FROM THE SHOCK!!!

WELL...

!!!

WHO'S THE FATHER...?

I'M YOUR BOSS. WHY DIDN'T YOU CONSULT WITH ME?

A SECRET, HUH?!

GUESS I'LL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THAT!!!

TEE HEE, IT'S A SECRET!

検査室

Sign: Screening Room

THE RESULTS ARE IN.

YOU'RE TWENTY WEEKS PREGNANT WITH TWINS.

TWINS...

ARE YOU REALLY GOING THROUGH WITH THIS?

IF THE WORLD FINDS OUT YOU GOT PREGNANT AND GAVE BIRTH AT SIXTEEN...

BOTH YOUR CAREER AND OUR AGENCY ARE OVER.

TWINS...

AI.

...

DOCTOR, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

...

AS A...

DOC-TOR...

AS A DOCTOR, THAT'S THE ONLY ANSWER I CAN GIVE.

受付

"YOU HAVE THE FINAL SAY."

"THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE MAKING YOUR DECISION."

Sign: Reception

GOODAY!

Shocking News: Comedian Ponta and Idol MIU Announce Marriage & Pregnancy

THAT'S CREEPY AS HELL...

WAIT... THINK ABOUT IT THIS WAY. IF I DIE RIGHT NOW, CAN'T I BE REBORN AS MY IDOL'S CHILD?

AW MAN, I LIKED MIU.

WHOA, SERIOUSLY?!

Sign: Reception

受付

BUT LIKE...

HOW TIMELY.

...WOULD YOU SUPPORT AN IDOL WHO HAS A MAN AND KIDS?

"...I WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE YOU SOAR TO GREATER HEIGHTS."

"BUT IF YOU GIVE BIRTH TO KIDS...

"EVEN IF YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH A MAN...

"...I'LL KEEP ROOTING FOR YOU."

I BET YOU THINK SO TOO, SARINA-CHAN.

FANS' OPINIONS ARE SELF-ISH, HUH?

CREAK

I'M DRESSED WARMLY, SO IT'S FINE!

THE NIGHT WINDS CAN BE HARSH ON YOUR BODY.

HOSHINO-SAN...

OH, IT'S YOU, DOC.

I CHOSE THIS PLACE BASED ON THE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S RECOMMEN-DATION, BUT IT'S GREAT HERE! ♪

IT'S ONLY EVENING, BUT YOU CAN SEE THE STARS SO WELL...

WE DON'T GET THIS IN TOKYO.

...

...

DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY TO THE COUNTRY-SIDE...

...BECAUSE YOU'D ATTRACT PUBLIC ATTENTION IN TOKYO?

HUH?

DID I TELL YOU WHAT MY JOB WAS?

?

OOF!

I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO GO UNDERCOVER HERE SINCE THE DOCTORS WOULD ALL BE OLD MEN.

A LONG TIME AGO...

...I HAD A PATIENT WHO WAS A FAN OF YOURS.

I GUESS THERE'S NO HIDING MY *OVER-FLOWING STAR AURA!*☆

Oh dear, what ever will I do?

HER SELF-CONFIDENCE IS ADORABLE.

ARE YOU GOING TO...QUIT BEING AN IDOL?

NO?

WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

THERE ARE TWINS IN MY BELLY, RIGHT?

BUT—

I DON'T HAVE A FAMILY...

SO I'VE ALWAYS LONGED FOR ONE.

ONCE THEY'RE BORN, I'M SURE WE'LL MAKE...

...A FUN, LIVELY FAMILY!

YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE BIRTH...

...AND CONTIN-UE TO BE AN IDOL.

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE-

IDOLS ARE JUST THAT— IDOLS.

THEY'RE CREATURES THAT SHINE WITH THE MAGIC OF LIES.

YEP!

I'M NOT GOING TO AN-NOUNCE IT.

ニヤリ GRIN

LIES ARE...

...AN ULTIMATE FORM OF LOVE, YOU KNOW?

THEY PILE ON LIE AFTER LIE...

...AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH PAIN THEY'RE IN...

THEY SING HAPPILY ON STAGE! WHAT A FUN JOB!

BEING ABLE TO HIDE THE EXISTENCE OF A KID OR TWO...

IS WHAT MAKES A FIRST-RATE IDOL.

BUT...

...IT'D BE NICE IF THE HAPPINESS WAS REAL.

PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE IT, BUT WE HAVE FEELINGS AND OUR OWN LIVES TOO.

THE HAPPINESS OF A MOTHER...

...AND THE HAPPINESS OF AN IDOL.

NORMALLY, YOU CAN ONLY HAVE ONE...

THE IDOL NAMED AI...

...IS WAY BOLDER THAN I EXPECTED.

...BUT I WANT BOTH.

AI HOSHINO IS A GREEDY GIRL.

SHE'S CUNNING AND STRONG...

...AND SHE SHINES AS BRIGHT AS THE FIRST STAR OF THE NIGHT.

AI HOSHINO...

...AND MY FAN SIDE ARE IN AGREEMENT.

MY DOCTOR SIDE...

HUH?

I'VE REACHED A SET-TLEMENT.

IF YOU SAY DOING THAT WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY, THEN I WILL OBEY.

...YOU SAFELY GIVE BIRTH TO HEALTHY BABIES.

I'LL ENSURE THAT...

...YOU'RE HOPELESSLY AN IDOL...

AFTER ALL...

...AND I'M HOPELESSLY YOUR CAPTIVE.

Sign: Reception

25 weeks

ANY-THING'S FINE WITH ME.

I'M REALLY HEALTHY!

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT YOUR RETURN TO WORK AS AN IDOL, YOU HAVE THE OPTION OF A Ppainless DELIVERY—

受付

YOU SHOULD USE A FAKE NAME HERE FOR NOW.

21 weeks

14

10

...IS WHAT I BECAME A DOCTOR FOR.

2

1

MAYBE THIS...

26

28 weeks

WHAT?!

IN YOUR CASE, A C-SECTION IS LIKELY.

*8 cm = about 3 inches
*151 cm = 4'11"

DON'T WORRY, I CAN HAVE A NATURAL BIRTH.

HAVING A SCAR ON YOUR ABDOMEN WILL BE BAD FOR WORK...

...PEOPLE WITH YOUR BODY TYPE OFTEN CAN'T OPEN THEIR PELVIS WIDE ENOUGH.

If the skull is about 8 cm*, you can do it.

151* cm

Oh?

WHEN THE BABY HAS A LARGE SKULL...

THEY'RE BOUND TO HAVE SMALL, BEAUTIFUL FACES!

YOU AND YOUR CARELESS ASSUMPTIONS...

I MEAN, THESE ARE MY KIDS!

35 weeks

...SAFER AND MORE RELIABLE.

I'LL MAKE YOUR DELIVERY...

Surrender

I'LL PROTECT YOUR FAMILY.

STARS ARE AMAZING.

THOSE WORDS STARTED TO SOUND KIND OF NICE.

"LIES ARE A FORM OF LOVE."

HONESTLY, I DID HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT IT...

...BUT I DID MY BEST TO HIDE THAT FACT.

AND THEN ...

...IT WAS HER EXPECTED DELIVERY DAY.

THANKS FOR EVERY-THING, DOC.

COME RIGHT AWAY IF I CALL FOR YOU, OKAY?

I WILL.

MY HOUSE IS REALLY CLOSE BY.

...I LIKE HOW FRANK SHE IS.

...BUT I ACTUALLY THINK...

I SAW A BIT OF THE HIDDEN SIDE OF HER PERSONALITY...

WE'LL GO BACK TO BEING JUST AN IDOL AND HER FAN.

...MY CONNECTION WITH AI WILL BE GONE.

ONCE THIS IS OVER...

NO, I WANT YOU.

WELL, EVEN IF I DON'T COME, ANOTHER DOCTOR WILL.

...FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART.

I'M PRAYING FOR HER HAPPINESS...

...AI HOSHINO'S DOCTOR?

ARE YOU...

...

SHE USES AN ALIAS WHEN SHE VISITS.

EVEN IF YOU SAW HER AT THE HOSPI-TAL...

HOW WOULD YOU KNOW HER UNPUBLI-CIZED SUR-NAME?

ARE YOU INVOLVED WITH HER?

MAY I ASK YOUR NAME?

SHF

HEY! WAIT!

DASH

COULD IT BE A STALKER?

WHY NOW, WHEN HER DELIVERY IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER?

I LOST SIGHT OF THEM...

UGH.

MAKING ME RUN AROUND ON THESE MOUNTAIN ROADS...

WHERE DID THEY GO?

PHEW, THAT SCARED ME.

...

NGH...

I MUST'VE SLIPPED ON SOMETHING.

MY MIND SUDDENLY WENT BLANK...

DID AI GO INTO LABOR?

OH, MY PHONE'S RINGING...

HUH, I CAN'T MOVE MY BODY...

IT'S TOO DARK TO FIND IT.

WHERE'S MY PHONE...?

...I'D MAKE SURE SHE GAVE BIRTH TO HEALTHY BABIES...

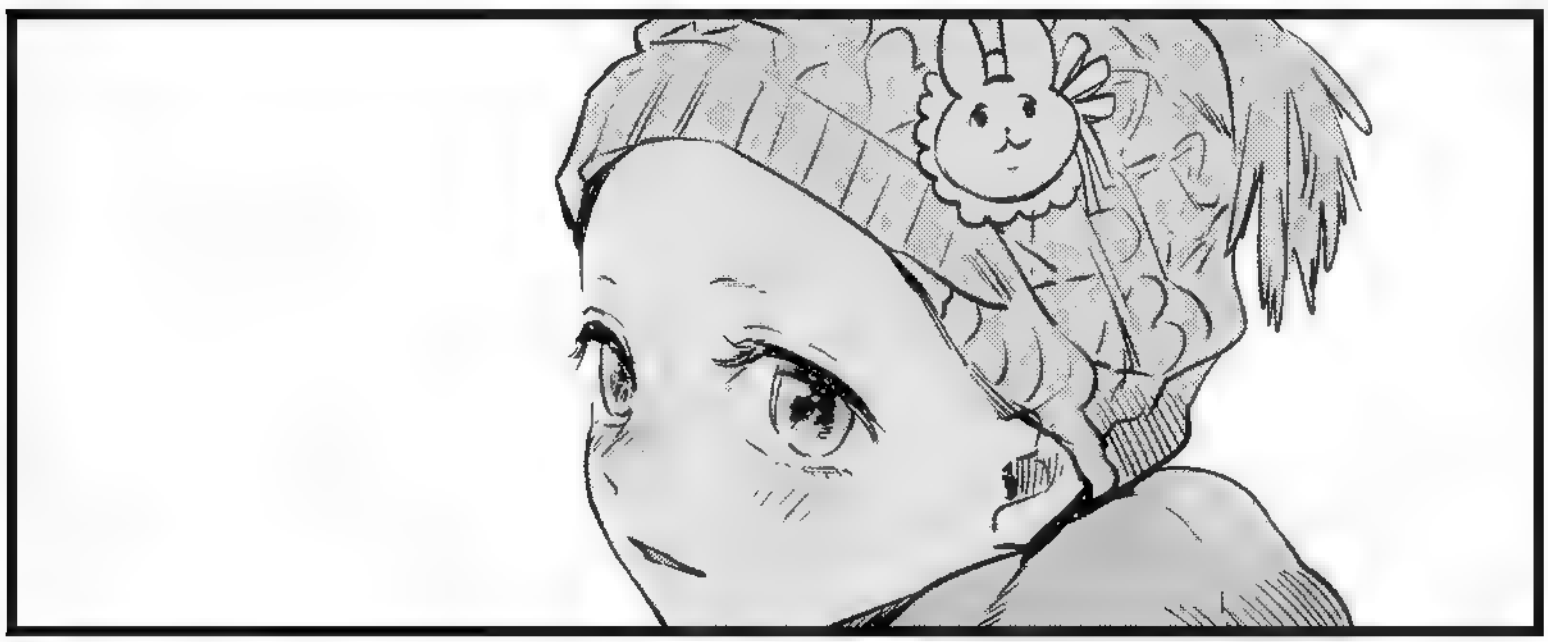
I PROM-ISED...

I NEED TO GO TO HER SOON.

I NEED TO GET UP...

...AND DE-LIVER HER CHILDREN...

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT IT'D BE LIKE IF YOU WERE BORN AS THE CHILD OF A CELEBRITY?



IF YOU HAD BOTH LOOKS AND CONNECTIONS FROM BIRTH?

Sign: Delivery Room

I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT SERIOUSLY.

I MEAN, WHY WOULD I?

Comedian Ponta and Idol MIU Announce Marriage & Pregnancy

"IF I DIE RIGHT NOW, THERE'S A CHANCE I'LL BE REBORN AS MY IDOL'S CHILD."

"IF YOU WERE REBORN..."

CHAPTER 1: MOTHER AND CHILD

【推しの子】

[[CHAPTER 2]]

【推しの子】

AKA AKASAKA X MENGO YOKOYARI

Translated by Minna Lin
Lettered by YKS Services, LLC
Edited by Jordan Reynolds
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Ruby: Life is all about challenges!

Ruby: Hmm, well, I always think of my idol work as a challenge too!

This is your first time challenging an acting job. How are you feeling?

Interview #1
【Idol】Edition

Ruby: Well, I'm sure it'll work out somehow!

You seem confident.

Ruby:....I'll have the person I trust the most in the whole world by my side.

Ruby: Because for this job...

...AQUA?

RIGHT...

CHAPTER 2: BROTHER AND SISTER

...AND APPARENTLY I DIED.

HERE'S THE STORY SO FAR.

I'M AN OB-GYN...

...I WAS TRAUMA-TIZED...

...AND DIED.

AREN'T YOU LEAVING OUT SOME KEY DE-TAILS?

...AFTER FINDING OUT THAT MY FAVORITE IDOL WAS PREGNANT...

LONG STORY SHORT...

SLAM

JOLT

I THOUGHT PEOPLE LIKE ME WENT TO HELL WHEN THEY DIED...

...SO IT'S POSSIBLE THAT I'M ACTUALLY STILL ALIVE...

MY MEMO-RIES FROM WHEN I DIED ARE FUZZY...

...BUT BASED ON THE CIRCUM-STANCES, I DOUBT IT.

...BUT WHEN I WOKE UP, I WAS IN HEAVEN.

THIS IS MY CURRENT FORM.

I'M NOW LIVING AS THE SON OF THE IDOL AI HOSHINO.

I HAVE NO IDEA WHY.

150X

星野

Sign: Hoshino

FIRST OF ALL, I WAS GIVEN A RIDICU-LOUS NAME.

NAME: AQUAMA-RINE HOSHINO

D'AWW, YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD BOOOY, AQUAMA-RINE~!

WHY DO I STILL HAVE MEMORIES OF MY PREVIOUS LIFE?

WAS I BORN AGAIN?

OR SHOULD I BE SAYING REINCARNATED IN MODERN TERMS?

WHAT ON EARTH IS THE PRINCIPLE BEHIND THIS?

IT TOOK A WHILE FOR ME TO COME TO TERMS WITH REALITY.

I INTEND ON FIGURING OUT HOW THIS WORKS EVENTUALLY...

I'M TECHNICALLY A DOCTOR, FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH.

...BUT...

...FOR NOW, I WANT TO BASK IN THE NEWBORN LIFE.

MY TIRED, WORKING-ADULT HEART...

...IS UTTERLY MOVED.

BA...

BA-BA...

IT'S AN ENVIRON-MENT WHERE...

...MY FAVORITE IDOL WILL PAMPER ME AS MUCH AS SHE CAN!

HANGYUUU!

HANGYUUU!

...THE CHILD BORN AS MY TWIN SISTER.

RUBY HOSHINO...

THAT'S RIGHT.

THIS HOUSE HAS ONE MORE RESIDENT.

YEEES, WHAT IS IT, CUTIE?

I'D KILL FOR A NAME CHANGE RIGHT ABOUT NOW.

HER NAME ISN'T AS PAINFUL AS MINE.

WHAT'S WRONG, AQUA~?

Waaaaah! んぎゃあああ

THAT'S RUBY.

YOU CALL YOUR-SELF A MOTHER?

IT'S NOT MY FAULT I'M BAD AT RE-MEMBERING PEOPLE'S NAMES AND FACES.

DON'T TALK ON A GLOBAL SCALE WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE A PASSPORT!

YOU EVEN REFUSED TO DO OVERSEAS SHOOTS!!!

AWW, HE'S SOOO MEAN! JAPANESE MEN HAVE SUCH *IDEALIZED STANDARDS FOR MOTH-ERS.*

OH, BUT I DO REMEMBER THE NAMES OF PEOPLE I THINK ARE TALENTED, PRESIDENT SATO.

CLOSE.

MY NAME'S SAITO, YOU SHITTY IDOL.

AND...

...THIS IS HIS WIFE, MIYAKO SAITO.

Freshly applied face serum.

Strawberry Productions Inc. President Ichigo Saito

I KNOW THIS PERSON FROM MY PREVIOUS LIFE.

HE'S THE PRESIDENT OF THE AGENCY THAT AI BELONGS TO.

WE'RE GOING TO DISCUSS HER FUTURE ACTIVITIES.

StrawPro Meeting

- Ai back to work
- Dealing with the kids

B-A-M

AI IS RETURNING TO WORK TODAY.

ANYWAY...

YOUR WIFE IS YOUNG, HUH?

THAT'S NEWS TO ME. I'LL BE CAREFUL.

THE OTHER MEMBERS ARE REALLY CREEPED OUT BY YOUR BIAS TOWARDS YOUNG GIRLS.

OF COURSE.

IT'S A LIVE BROADCAST, BUT YOU CAN HANDLE IT, RIGHT?

FIRST UP IS TONIGHT'S MUSIC PROGRAM.

SIGH...

MY WIFE WILL LOOK AFTER THE KIDS.

WHILE AI IS WORKING...

REMEMBER THIS.

YOU'RE A MOTHER OF TWO KIDS AT THE AGE OF SIXTEEN.

IF THE WORLD FINDS OUT, YOUR LIFE AS AN IDOL IS INSTANTLY OVER.

CAN I BRING MY KIDS TO THE STUDIO?

OBVIOUSLY NOT!!!

AS THE ONES RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPERVISING YOU, MY AGENCY WOULD BE DONE FOR.

WE'D ALL GO TO HELL TOGETHER.

YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO BRING YOUR KIDS WHEN YOU GO SHOPPING OR DO PAPERWORK AT THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE.

BEEP

IF THERE'S AN EMERGENCY AND YOU REALLY HAVE TO LEAVE THE HOUSE WITH THEM...

THEN YOU TELL PEOPLE YOU'RE BABYSITTING OUR KIDS!

MAN, WHAT A PAIN.

DON'T YOU AGREE, RUBY?

THAT'S AQUA.

OKAAAY!

WE'RE HEADING OVER.

THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME BEFORE THE RE-HEARSAL.

...IT MAY WORK OUT, ACTUALLY.

BUT WITH THE GEN-EROUS SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE..!

AI'S PRETTY HOPELESS AS A MOTHER.

Ahaha!

SLIP

OOPS!

SHF

THIS GIRL IS DANGER-OUS!!!

I TAKE IT BACK!

KEEP THEM COVERED WHEN YOU'RE OUTSIDE.

THAT WAS CLOSE~!

I ALMOST FLASHED MY BOOBS IN FRONT OF THE PRESIDENT!

ヒラヒラ CACKLE CACKLE

THAT'S AQUA.

THANKS, RUBY!

Box: Soft Material

...SO WHY AM I STUCK DOING THIS?

I'VE NEVER BABYSAT BEFORE...

LIVE

MMM

LIVE

It's the members of B-Komachi!

TV.Roppongi Studio

Ai...

LIVE

GOOD, SHE'S DOING HER JOB RIGHT.

Yes! I'm eating a lot!

Are you okay? Have you been eating properly?

Today marks Ai-san's return!

PFFT

Your little ones?

Speaking of eating...

the other day, my little ones—

Oh, yeah!

Now then...

please get ready for your performance, B-Komachi!

LIVE

THUMP THUMP THUMP

Oh?

I got them while I was recuperating.

I mean my little kittens!

CACKLE CACKLE

イラッ

MAYBE IT WON'T BE OKAY AFTER ALL...

PUT ON A GOOD SHOW FOR US!

WE'RE COUNT-ING ON YOU.

THE CAMERA WILL BE SWITCHING OVER IN THIRTY SECONDS.

DO YOU KNOW THEM?

B-KOMACHI...

DON'T KNOW.

DON'T CARE.

THE ONLY PRAISE-WORTHY THING I SEE IS THE CENTER GIRL'S FACE.

WE HAVE TO PRAISE THEM ABOUT SOMETHING. WHAT'LL IT BE?

MASS-PRODUCED IDOLS.

WELL, THIS IS THE KIND OF THING THAT SELLS, I GUESS.

THEY AREN'T GOOD OR BAD. JUST AVER-AGE.

I LISTENED TO THE TRACK.

I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF STRAWBERRY PRODUCTIONS.

THEY MUST BE INDIES GOING MAIN-STREAM.

I RECOGNIZE THEIR NAME, BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD ABOUT THEM IN THE PAST HALF YEAR OR SO.

WHO PUSHED TO GET THEM ON THE SHOW?

WANNA ASK THAT GIRL OUT FOR DINNER?

SHE SEEMS LIKE THE PRODUC-ER'S TYPE.

THE BUSTY GIRL'S NICE.

WHAT IF WE MAKE HER DO SEXY MODELING?

IN THE ENTERTAIN-MENT INDUSTRY...

...TO CONCEAL LIES AND SCHEMING.

30 seconds left

...SMILES ARE A FACADE...

THEY PRETEND THEY'RE TRYING TO MAKE SOMETHING GOOD, BUT THEY'RE ONLY LOOKING AT THE NUMBERS.

SAME GOES FOR THE BIG SHOTS.

EVEN THE STAFF TELL LIES...

YOU CAN'T CAUSE ISSUES FOR THE BROAD-CAST.

...TO DRAW OUT THE MAXIMUM LEVEL OF PERFOR-MANCE FROM ANY PERFORMER.

...IS GRUDGING-LY TELLING LIES!

EVERY-ONE...

THAT'S FINE, BRING IT ON.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT?

...IS THE LIAR TO END ALL IDOLS.

BECAUSE OUR AI...

THE PRESI-DENT SURE IS CRAZY.

HE RISKS LOSING EVERYTHING IF SHE GETS CAUGHT.

HE JUST CAN'T STAY SANE...

BUT I UNDER-STAND.

...PEOPLE...

WHEN THE LIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU IS TOO STRONG...

THEY'RE LIKE MOTHS DRAWN TO A FLAME...

...AND WHEN THEY REALIZE THEIR WINGS ARE BURNING OFF, IT'S EVEN HARDER FOR THEM TO STOP.

AI...

AI...

BEING ABLE TO WATCH OVER AI FROM UP CLOSE MAKES ME HAPPY...

I'M NO EXCEPTION.

...SIMPLY GET BURNED.

...HAS MY GRATITUDE.

...TO THE POINT WHERE THE GUY WHO KILLED ME...

WHY...?

YOU WENT AND HAD A DAMN KID...

YOU LIAR...

YOU TRICKED ME...

Awu...
あぅ…
Dawu...
ダぅ…
HONESTLY...
I WANTED TO HELP HER GIVE BIRTH TO NORMAL CHILDREN...
THAT WOULD MAKE A LOT OF SENSE.
IF THIS REINCARNATION...
WAS A MIRACLE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE MANY OBSESSIONS TOWARDS HER...
SO, I'M GOING TO ENJOY MYSELF.
Awu...
あぅ…
YOU CAN'T WIN AGAINST SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENA.
...BUT THIS WAS AN ACT OF GOD.
WAIT...

WHY DIDN'T YOU WAKE ME UP?!

N-STATION ALREADY STARTED?!

PANIC

PANIC

MAMA'S SOOO ADOR-ABLE!

ALL THE VIEWERS SHOULD HAVE TO PAY A BILLION TO WATCH THIS!!!

OH MY GOD! THIS IS INSAAANE!!!

CRAP, I JUST CHANGED MY DIAPER BUT I FEEL LIKE I GOTTA GO AGAIN!!!

SHE MUST BE A GHOST 'CUZ I'M GETTING GOOSE-BUMPS!!!

ISN'T THE EXPRES-SIVENESS OF HER TURNS JUST RIDIC-ULOUS?!

THESE BODIES GET NEEDLESSLY SLEEPY, SO WE SHOULD HELP EACH OTHER OUT!!!

LIVE BROAD-CASTS ARE MEANT TO BE WATCHED IN REAL TIME! WHY CAN'T YOU WAKE ME UP?!

I TRIED TO WAKE YOU UP SEVERAL TIMES.

I GOTTA REWATCH THE RE-CORDING ASAP!!!

MY MOM IS WAAAY TOO GIFTED!!!

GREAT FACE, GREAT FIGURE, GREAT SINGING...

THIS IDIOT IS THE LITTLE SISTER I WAS GIVEN IN MY NEW LIFE.

HUH...?

SERI-OUSLY?

RUBY HOSHINO...

JUST LIKE ME, SHE'S A REINCARNATION OF SOMEONE FROM SOMEWHERE.

SHE REINFORCES MY BELIEF...

LET'S REPLAY THIS PART!

...NOT FREAKS LIKE US.

YOU RECORD IT ONCE AND YOU CAN WATCH IT FOREVER! SUCH GODLY COST PERFORMANCE!!!

...THAT I WANTED AI TO HAVE NORMAL CHILDREN...

HOW IS THIS LEGAL?!

WELL, YEAH!

MANAGING THOSE TWO IS A LOT OF WORK.

【CHAPTER 3】

Interview #2
【Manager】Edition

WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, THEY WERE STRANGE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

"GENIUSES" PROBABLY ISN'T THE RIGHT WORD...

HOW DO I PUT IT?

IT'S LIKE THEY WERE BEING GUIDED BY GOD.

LIKE THEY HAD HIS FAVOR...

BUT THEY WERE ALSO BEING TESTED BY HIM.

HELLO?

Something happened! Get over here!

THEY'RE CALLING FOR ME!

WE'LL CONTINUE THIS ANOTHER TIME!

CLATTER

CLATTER

カゴーマン
しょうゆ

Bottle: Kakkoman Soy Sauce

Translated by Minna Lin
Lettered by YKS Services, LLC
Edited by Jordan Reynolds
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CHAPTER 3: BABYSITTER

YOU WANT MAMA'S MILK AGAIN?

おぎゃ

おぎゃ

Waaah

Waaah

AS AN ADULT, MAKING AN IDOL BREASTFEED ME DEFINITELY FEELS LIKE CROSSING THE LINE!

ちゅぱ

SUCK

YOU SURE LIKE DRINKING FROM MY BOOBS, RUBY!

おぎゃ

WAAAH

SMIRK

THE NERVE OF THIS KID...!!!

B小町 7thシングル「スーパーモーター」
B-Komachi's 7th Single: Super Motor
Now on Sale

OH, LOOK! IT'S MAMA!

OUR MOTHER HAS A SECRET.

Aren't I amazing?

TODAY, SHE'S LIVING HER DOUBLE LIFE AS A MOTHER AND IDOL AS USUAL.

OBVIOUSLY, IT'LL BECOME A HUGE SCANDAL IF THE PUBLIC FINDS OUT.

SHE'S A WORKING IDOL, BUT SHE'S ALSO A MOTHER OF TWO AT THE AGE OF SIXTEEN.

WE BABIES HAVE A SECRET TOO.

TODAY, I'M PRETENDING TO BE A BABY AS USUAL.

OBVIOUSLY, WE'LL BECOME HUMAN TEST SUBJECTS IF THE PUBLIC FINDS OUT.

WE COULD EVEN WALK AND TALK IF WE WANTED TO.

WE WERE REBORN AND HAVE MEMORIES FROM OUR PREVIOUS LIVES.

...MY YOUNGER TWIN SISTER.

THE SAME GOES FOR...

IT WAS BACK WHEN I'D FINALLY ACCEPTED MY NEW REALITY.

I DISCOVERED THE TRUTH ABOUT HER FAIRLY EARLY ON.

LATE AT NIGHT, WHEN AI WAS FAST ASLEEP...

ZZZ

ZZZ

TAP
TAP
TAP

THE SAME AS ME?

ARE YOU...

HUH...?

A TALKING BABY!

GROSS!

YOU'RE TALKING TOO.

'Kaaay.

It's time for work.

WELL, WE ARE TWINS...

Yum!

...SO I DID CONSIDER THIS POSSIBILITY.

YOU SHOULD SHOW SOME RESTRAINT...

WHY?

...

I'M JUST EXERTING MY NATURAL RIGHT.

AS MAMA'S DAUGHTER, THE LAW OF NATURE SAYS I SHOULD SUCK HER BOOBS.

LOOK AT THIS JEALOUS OTAKU! GROSS!

I GUESS IT'S BORDERLINE ACCEPTABLE...

IN THAT CASE...

JUST SO I KNOW...

WERE YOU FEMALE IN YOUR PAST LIFE TOO?

YEAH.

GOOD THING I WAS BORN AS A GIRL SO I CAN LAWFULLY TASTE BOOBS!

WELL, AN OLD MAN BREASTFEEDING IS JUST WRONG FROM AN ETHICAL STANDPOINT!

MY MORAL COMPASS PUTS YOU IN THE WRONG TOO, THOUGH.

I FEEL BAD FOR MAMA...

HER OWN CHILD IS AN OTAKU OBSESSED WITH HER. THAT'S SO CREEPY.

AHHH, POOR MAMA. I'LL PROTECT HER FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE...

YOU'RE ***DEFINITELY CREEPIER THAN ME.***

THERE WAS ONE.

SHE MUST'VE BEEN THIS KIND OF GIRL IN HER PAST LIFE.

WELL, I DIDN'T PERSONALLY KNOW ANY IDOL OTAKU GIRLS—

I'll protect you for the rest of my life~!

NO...

I WANNA CHANGE MY DIAPER, SO GO AWAY.

YEAH, YEAH.

!

おんぎゃ Waaah

おんぎゃ Waaah

おんぎゃ WAAAH

おんぎゃ WAAAH

PLOD

PLOD

Box Silky Thin 'n' Soft Great value for Bulk Use

SIGH...

WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS...?

RUSTLE

RUSTL

That Guy

I MARRIED THAT GUY BECAUSE I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO WORK WITH PRETTY BOYS!!!

BUT INSTEAD I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF A SIX-TEEN-YEAR-OLD IDOL'S KIDS?!

AREN'T I THE PRESI-DENT'S WIFE?

SLAM

I DIDN'T GET MARRIED TO BECOME A DAMN BABYSITTER IN THE FIRST PLACE!!!

AND THE FATHER'S UNKNOWN, SO SHE'S A SINGLE PARENT?! THAT'S WAY TOO DARK!!!

NO, WHAT SHE'S SAYING IS ***SURPRIS-INGLY VALID.***

IS THERE SOME-THING WRONG WITH HER HEAD?

WHAT?

BEING ABLE TO SERVE MAMA IS ***NOTHING BUT PURE HAPPINESS.***

AHHH...

WAIT, THIS IS A *HIDDEN SCANDAL*, ISN'T IT?

OH, I KNOW...

WHAT IF I SELL THIS JUICY INFO TO A TAB-LOID AND MAKE BANK?

!!!

WHOA, THIS IS BAD!

WHAT DO WE DO?! *KILL HER?!*

NOT POSSIBLE... THE DIFFER-ENCE IN OUR SIZES IS TOO GREAT.

I WAS JUST KIDDING, BUT WERE YOU SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING IT?

IT'LL DEFINITELY BE DANGER-OUS TO LEAVE HER TO HER OWN DEVICES.

BUT...

I don't care about anything anymore! Guess I'll do it!

...

...MAYBE I SHOULD THINK OF THIS AS AN OPPORTU-NITY—!

NO!!!

I HAVE AN IDEA.

KA-SNAP KA-SNAP KA-SNAP KA-SNAP KA-SNAP KA-SNAP

WHAT DO WE DO NOW?!

SHE STARTED TAKING A BUNCH OF PICTURES OF THE MATERNITY NOTEBOOK!

THAT'LL PUSH MY MAN TO THE TOP OF THE MONTHLY RANKING...

HEH HEH... I'LL SELL THESE AND USE THE MONEY TO BUY MOET AT THE HOST CLUB.

PITIFUL GIRL.

THE THIRST IN YOUR HEART CANNOT BE QUENCHED BY CHAM-PAGNE.

WHO'S THERE?!

I AM A MESSEN-GER OF GOD.

I...

...CAN NO LONGER BE OVER-LOOKED!

YOUR CARE-LESS RAM-PAGE...

A MES-SENGER FROM GOD?

WAIT, THE BABY IS TALKING...

THIS CAN'T BE REAL.

DOES YOUR COMMON SENSE SAY THAT BABIES CAN TALK?

FACE THE TRUTH.

What's going on?

UHHH...

EVEN IF YOU SAY GOD SENT YOU...

I DON'T BELIEVE IN THAT RELIGIOUS STUFF, SO...

OH, I KNOW!

THIS IS A PRANK!

AI-SAN'S APPEARING IN A PROGRAM WHERE THEY PRANK THE MANAGERS OR SOMETHING!

I'VE HEARD OF THAT!

THEY SURE PUT A LOT OF WORK INTO THIS. THERE'S A CAMERA SOME-WHERE, RIGHT?

TCH!

GUESS IT WASN'T POSSIBLE AFTER ALL...

OH, RUBY-CHAN.

CLIMBING ONTO THE TABLE IS DANGERO—

SMACK

I AM AMATERASU INCARNATE...

THE GOD YOU PEOPLE SPEAK OF.

KNOW YOUR PLACE.

SLUMP

GOD'S WILL?

YOU ARE ON THE VERGE OF ABANDONING GOD'S WILL...

ALL FOR THE PROSPECTS OF IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL GAIN.

'TIS YOUR DUTY TO PROTECT THEM.

AND HER TWIN CHILDREN, TOO, HAVE BEEN TASKED WITH A GRAND DESTINY.

AI HOSHINO HAS BEEN CHOSEN BY THE GOD OF ENTERTAINMENT...

SPECIFICALLY?

SPECIFICALLY...

WHAT'S THAT?!

TELL ME *SPECIFICALLY!!!*

DIVINE PUNISHMENT?!

IF YOU CONTINUE, YOU WILL RECEIVE DIVINE PUNISHMENT.

YOUR ACTIONS GO AGAINST THE GODS.

NOOO!

THAT'S *REALLY* SPECIF-IC!!!

YES!

YOU SHALL DIE!

YOU WILL DIE.

EVERY COM-MAND...

AND OBEY THEIR EVERY COMMAND.

DOTE ON THESE CHIL-DREN...

YOU MUST PROTECT THE MOTH-ER'S SECRET...

THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE.

WHAT... SHOULD I DO...?

I'LL DO ANY-THING YOU SAY!

I'LL EVEN LICK THE INSIDES OF YOUR SHOES!

THAT WILL NOT BE NECES-SARY.

REALLY?!

I'LL DO IT!

IF YOU DO SO, REMAR-RYING A HANDSOME ACTOR IS NOT OUT OF THE QUESTION.

BEAT PAM

WAS THIS THE RIGHT THING TO DO?

EITHER WAY, THERE'S A LIMIT TO WHAT WE CAN DO AS INFANTS.

WE NEEDED AN ADULT COLLABORA-TOR.

Marrying a hot guy~! ♫

That's great!!!

YAY!

NOW WE'LL BE ABLE TO GO OUT-SIDE TOO.

NO, THAT WAS MY FIRST TIME ACTING.

WERE YOU IN THEATER BEFORE?

THAT WAS A PRETTY CONVINCING PERFOR-MANCE, THOUGH.

OH?

I...

GREW UP IN AN UNCON-VENTIONAL PLACE.

FIRST?

YOU DIDN'T HAVE PLAYS AT SCHOOL?

YOU'VE GOT TALENT, THEN.

YOU COULD BE AN ACTRESS IN THE FUTURE.

THE FUTURE...

スピー ZZZ

スピー ZZZ

I'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT BEFORE.

BUT...

SHE'S A WEIRD, IDOL OTAKU.

I HAVE A SISTER NOW.

SHE'S THE EMBODI-MENT OF CHARIS-MA!

...SOOO GOOD AT DANCING!

AI-CHAN'S, LIKE...

...BUT I LOVE YOU JUST AS MUCH, DOC!

I LOVE AI-CHAN THE MOST IN THE WHOLE WORLD...

SORRY, DID I WAKE YOU UP?

YAWN... WHAT?

DID YOU CALL FOR ME?

...SARINA-CHAN.

YOUR PASSION WHEN IT CAME TO AI WAS EXACTLY THE SAME AS THIS GIRL'S...

'KAY...

I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU.

IF YOU'RE GONNA SLEEP, GO TO THE BEDROOM.

WELL, YEAH.

HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN...

...BECAUSE SARINA WAS MY NAME IN MY *PREVI-OUS* LIFE.

AKA AKASAKA x MENGO YOKOYARI

〖CHAPTER 4〗

【推しの子】

Interview #3
【Idol Otaku】Edition

THERE ARE A BUNCH...

BUT I HAVE TO SAY AI FROM B-KOMACHI.

IDOLS I'VE LOVED IN MY LIFE?

FLAP

FLAP

...BUT IT WAS THAT ONE VIDEO THAT MADE ME THINK, "THE GENERAL PUBLIC DISCOVERED HER!"

SHE WAS POPULAR IN THE OTAKU COMMUNITY TO BEGIN WITH...

MAN, THIS BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.

THOSE TWINS WOULD BE IN HIGH SCHOOL NOW?

YOU KNOW, THE ONE WITH THE BABY TWINS.

I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE UP TO THESE DAYS.

Translated by Minna Lin
Lettered by YKS Services, LLC
Edited by Jordan Reynolds
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A FEW MONTHS AFTER AI RETURNED TO WORK...

...B-KOMA-CHI'S STEADY ADVANCE...

CHAPTER 4
HOW TO CRAFT A SMILE

THIS MONTH'S SALARY IS IN THE 200 THOU-SANDS...*

...WAS NONEXIS-TENT.

*About $2,000

HEY, THIS AGENCY IS REALLY STINGY...

DIDN'T OUR LAST SINGLE RANK, LIKE, THIRD ON THE CHARTS?

ISN'T MY CUT RIDICULOUSLY LOW?

UNLIKE THE BIG COMPANIES THAT HANDLE EVERYTHING FROM MANUFACTURING TO DISTRIBUTION, WE'RE JUST A TINY TALENT AGENCY.

YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WE HAVE THIN PROFIT MARGINS.

WHY IS IT ONLY BOTHERING YOU NOW?

I REALIZED *THE WORLD REVOLVES AROUND MONEY.*

YOU'VE REALIZED THE UNPLEASANT TRUTH...

BEING AN IDOL IS FUN...

...SO IF IT WERE JUST ME, I'D BE FINE WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE...

...AND HAVE THEM TAKE LESSONS.

...BUT I WANT TO SEND THESE KIDS TO GOOD SCHOOLS...

...I HAVE TO SELL BETTER...

AND EARN A LOT MORE MONEY, RIGHT?

IN ORDER TO GIVE THEM MORE OPTIONS...

I WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE THEM HAPPY THE WAY I AM NOW.

SIGH... I'M OFF TO MY LESSONS.

BE GOOD KIDS AND WATCH THE HOUSE FOR ME, OKAY?

Have you considered saving money?

THAT'S ANOTHER ADVANTAGE OF BIG COMPAN-

FIRST OF ALL, STOP EATING THAT *EXPENSIVE ICE CREAM.*

しょんぼり GLOOM

SIGH, CAN'T I GET ANY WORK IN, LIKE...

COMMER-CIALS OR MOVIES?

NO WAY.

NO WAY?!

HEY, DON'T IDOLS MAKE A MILLION YEN A MONTH?*

*About $10,000

AND OUTFIT COSTS ARE DEDUCTED FROM THEIR PAY.

CONCERTS ARE SQUARELY IN THE RED IF MERCH DOESN'T SELL WELL...

1~3%

MUSIC ROYALTIES AND TV APPEARANCE FEES ARE SPLIT BETWEEN THE MEMBERS...

ONLY A SMALL HANDFUL OF IDOLS CAN MAKE A MILLION A MONTH.

WHAT?!

THERE'S NO HOPE FOR THE WORLD IF HARD WORKERS DON'T GET PAID FAIRLY!!!

?

ALL OF THE OTAKU CAN TAKE TURNS OFFERING UP THEIR LIVERS TO AI, AND WE SELL THEM...

YOUR THINKING IS WHAT'S HOPELESS.

STOP IT WITH THAT *POST-APOCALYPTIC VIEW OF RELIGION.*

OH, I KNOW!

DO YOU HAVE A PROMISING IDEA?

...AND B-KOMA-CHI IS A POPULAR GROUP, SO WHY?

SHE'S A HARD WORKER...

SHE TAKES LESSONS, DOES VOICE TRAINING, AND EVEN PRACTICES CHOREOG-RAPHY AT HOME AT NIGHT...

SHE CAN SING AND DANCE AND SHE HAS A GREAT FACE...

EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT...

ぎゃLI YAP

YOU SHITTY MANAGE-MENT!

MARKET HER BETTER!!!

ぎゃLI YAP

YAP ぎゃLI

YAP ぎゃLI

HEY, MANAG-ER!

WHY ISN'T OUR AI GETTING ANY WORK?!

Solo Musician

VS

Group

=

IN THE CURRENT SITUATION, WHERE THEY CAN BARELY GET WORK BY SELLING THEM-SELVES AS A SET...

...COMPET-ING AS A SOLO PER-FORMER...

HAS A HIGH BARRIER TO ENTRY, YOU KNOW?

...TO COMPETE FOR WORK WITH A SINGLE EN-TERTAINER.

...IN THE END, AN IDOL GROUP IS DOZENS OF PEOPLE BUNDLED TOGETHER...

AREN'T THERE TONS OF FORMER IDOLS WHO GRADUATE TO PURSUE THEIR OWN CAREERS, ONLY TO BE UNABLE TO FIND WORK...

...AND END UP *WORKING PART-TIME AT HIGH-END RESTAURANTS IN ROPPONGI OR SPONGING OFF OF GUYS IN MINATO TO GET BY?*

DUNNO...

Spong-ing?

TOKYO'S A SCARY PLACE.

I AGREE THAT AI IS AMAZING...

BUT THAT'S ONLY WITHIN *THE REALM OF IDOLS.*

IN THE ENTER-TAINMENT INDUSTRY, YOU HAVE TO HAVE *SOMETHING THAT ALLOWS YOU TO FIGHT ON YOUR OWN.*

PROFITABLE WORK IS WORK THAT SPECIFICALLY REQUESTS "AI"...

...RATHER THAN "SOMEONE IN B-KOMACHI."

BEING EXEM-PLARY BY IDOL STAN-DARDS ISN'T ENOUGH.

AI-CHAN, YOU SEEM A LITTLE DOWN.

YOU JUST RECOVERED, SO DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD, OKAY?

NO, THIS IS BECAUSE I MISSED LUNCH!

I'M STARVING~!

ARE YOU PUTTING ON A GLUTTON ACT?!

SIGH...

I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR THIS.

LET'S DO SOME EGO SEARCHING.

Tanujiro 2d

For better or worse, Ai's smile is a professional one, right?

It just doesn't feel human...
I can't fully support her

HITTING ME WHERE IT HURTS, HUH?

...

Today, we have the three members of B-Komachi~!

THE KIND OF THING YOU CAN ONLY GET INTO BY LOTTERY!

WITH A MINI-CON-CERT!

A SALES PROMO EVENT!

LISTEN, I BROUGHT YOU HERE BECAUSE YOU INSISTED ON IT...

BUT IF THE BOSS FINDS OUT, I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO GET YELLED AT.

BA-THUMP

THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING MAMA PERFORM LIVE...

BA-THUMP

SO, NO CHEERING, NO RUNNING, AND NO TALKING!

PUT YOUR PACIFIERS ON AND STAY QUIET!

SHE'S RIGHT, RUBY. ***WE CAN'T AFFORD TO STAND OUT.***

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME THAT.

What do you take me for?

DON'T YOU DARE DO ANYTHING THAT SUGGESTS WE'RE RELATED TO AI.

WE'RE HERE UNDER THE PRETEXT OF BEING KIDS OF STAFF.

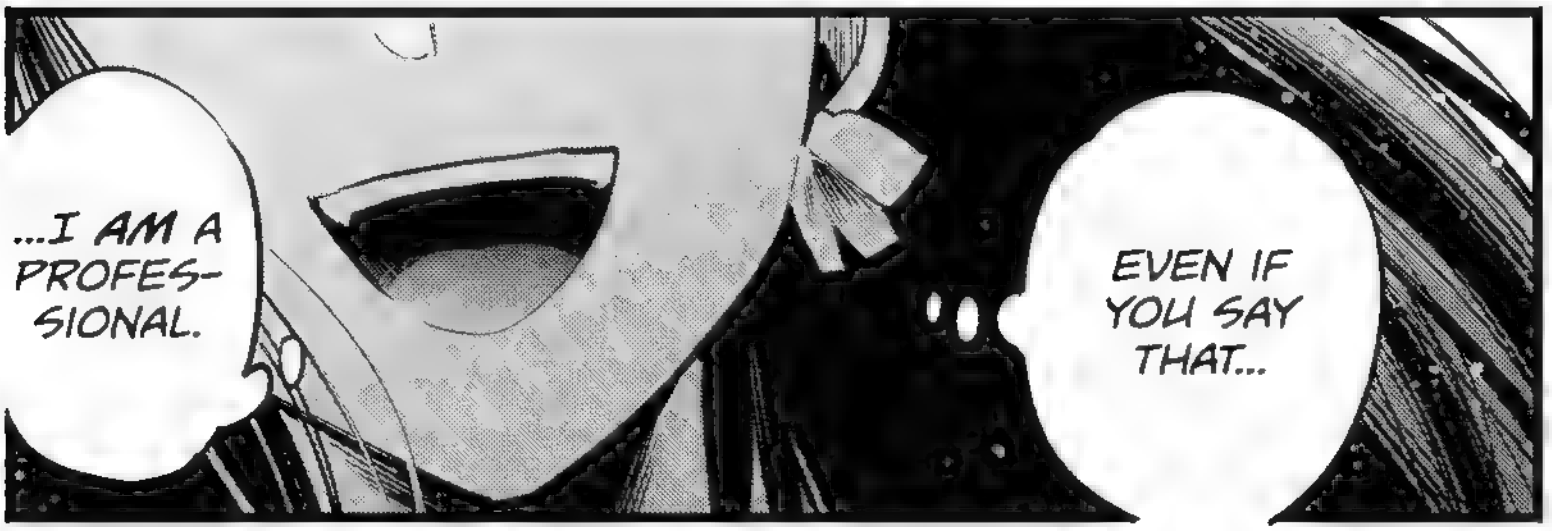
I KNOW WE DIDN'T COME HERE FOR FUN.

I'M HERE BECAUSE I'M WORRIED ABOUT MAMA.

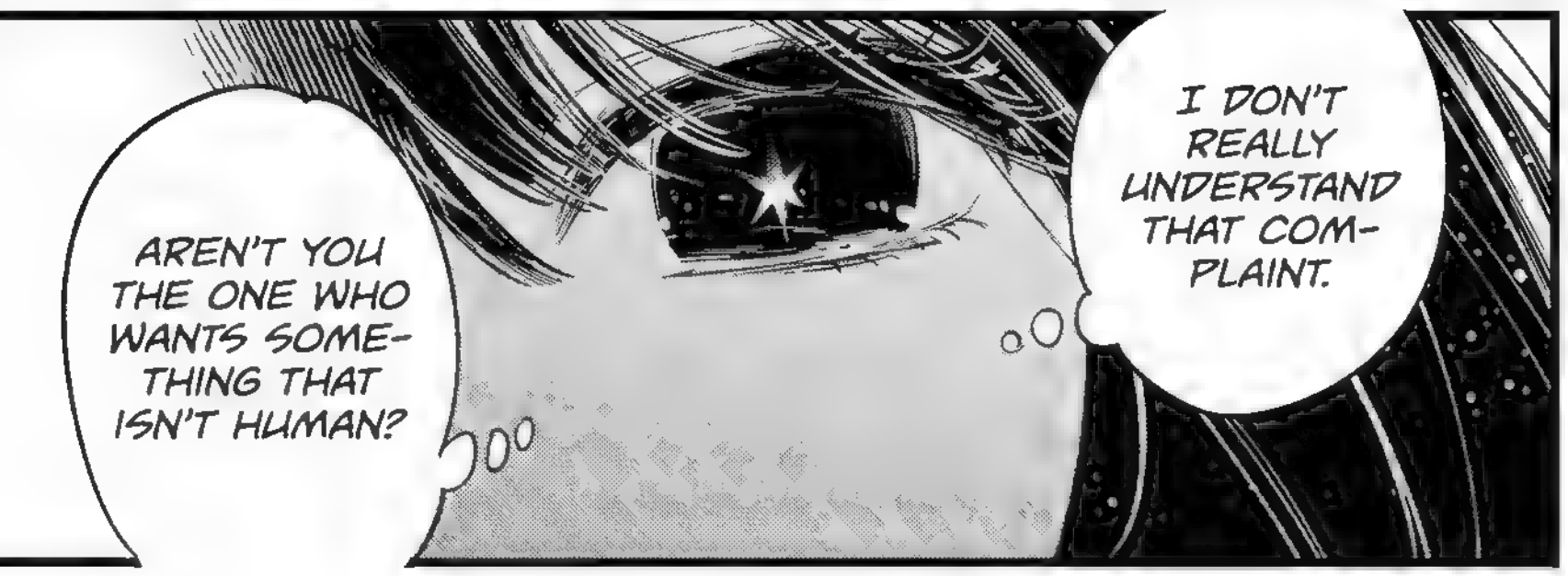
YOU SAW HOW GLUM SHE WAS, DIDN'T YOU?

0:0:0

For better or worse, Ai's smile is a professional one, right?



It just doesn't feel human...



...AND FINE-TUNE IT TO THE MILLIME-TER.

I STUDY MY SMILE IN THE MIRROR...

I'M ALWAYS *PUTTING ON* THE SMILE THAT'LL PLEASE PEOPLE THE MOST.

HOW I NARROW MY EYES, HOW I LIFT THE CORNERS OF MY MOUTH—THEY'RE ALL CALCULATED.

I'M MADE UP OF LIES, AFTER ALL.

GOO GOO!
GOO GOO!
GA GA!
GA GA!
GOO GOO!
GA GA!
THEIR MOVE-MENTS ARE SO SHARP! I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE INFANTS!!!
WHAT'S WITH THOSE BABIES?!
THEY'RE DOING WOTAGE! !!!*
Whoosh

*Chanting and dancing gestures performed by idol otaku

IT WAS PURELY ON INSTINCT...!

WHY WAS I WORRIED ABOUT RUBY?!

I'M ENJOYING THE SHOW THE MOST!!!

WOW!

THAT'S AMAZING...

MY BABIES ARE SOOO CUTE~! ♥♥♥

GA GA!

GOO GOO!

Idol unintentionally gives personal reaction to the unusual sight of babies performing wotagei

THIS IS A BIT MUCH...

EVEN THOUGH BABY CONTENT TRENDS EASILY...

AND THE REPOST-ED VIDEO ALREADY HAS TWO MILLION VIEWS...

210,000 RETWEETS...

•Anonymous ID:Ponq9gYwa
What's her name?

•Anonymous ID:wrnmMzK770
Did Ai always smile like this?
My impression of her changed a bit

•Anonymous ID:OcTlagDjd
When I look at these babies, I only think of those loud nuisances at concerts

COME WITH ME...

ズルズル DRAG DRAG

Tanujiro 30m
This is it!!!!! This!!!!!!!!

I SEE...

SO THIS IS GOOD, HUH?

MEMORIZED IT~!

Interview #4 【Film Director】 Edition

Congratulations on being nominated for Director of the Year again, Director Taishi Gotanda.

YOU DON'T MEAN THAT.

YOU'RE JUST GONNA MAKE A LAUGHING-STOCK OUT OF ME ON THE INTERNET AGAIN, AREN'T YOU? "LOL, HE ONLY GOT AS FAR AS NOMINATIONS SEVEN YEARS IN A ROW."

LET ME WIN THE DAMN AWARD ALREADY.

Poster: 15-Year Lie

What kind of film is this going to be?

I REVIVED ONE OF MY SCRIPTS THAT FLOPPED FIFTEEN YEARS AGO.

THANKS TO THE WORK OF AN EXCELLENT SCRIPTWRITER, YOU COULD SAY IT'S BEEN MADE INTO A UBIQUITOUS PIECE OF ENTERTAINMENT THAT'S STILL RELEVANT TODAY.

I heard that the main cast members have all been receiving your guidance since they were children.

WELL... I'VE KNOWN THEM SINCE THEY WERE IN DIAPERS...

SO THEY'RE KIND OF LIKE GRANDKIDS TO ME.

Any final comments?

I DEDICATE THIS FILM TO AI.

THAT'S ALL.

Translated by Minna Lin
Lettered by YKS Services, LLC
Edited by Jordan Reynolds
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IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE THEN...

CHAPTER 5 DIRECTOR AND ACTRESS

...AND WE'RE NOW BIG ENOUGH THAT WE CAN WALK AND TALK WITHOUT DRAWING SUSPICION.

MAMA! MAMA!

I WANT HEAD-PATS!

MY LITTLE SISTER HAS BECOME THE EMBODIMENT OF A CRAZY FAN WHO CALLS THEIR IDOL "MAMA."

WHAT IF...

AI IS SUSPI-CIOUS OF US—

ASCENDING TO HEAVEN? WHERE DID YOU LEARN SUCH DIFFICULT WORDS?

BUT SHE ISN'T A CHILD ON THE INSIDE.

AHHH, I'M ASCENDING TO HEAVEN~! ♥

—IS SOMETHING WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT AS WE SPEND OUR DAYS IN PEACE.

GULP

It must be genetic...

IT'S LIKE YOU'RE AN INSANE PRODIGY...

FROM MODELING TO BEING A RADIO ASSISTANT...

...AI IS STEADILY GAINING WORK.

YOU COULD SAY THAT TODAY'S JOB IS THE CULMINATION OF HER EFFORTS.

I'M EXCITED FOR MAMA'S FIRST TV DRAMA!

IT'S ONLY A BIT PART, THOUGH.

LISTEN UP, YOU TWO.

I'M BRINGING YOU BECAUSE YOU KEPT INSISTING...

BUT DON'T *EVER* CALL AI-SAN "MAMA" AT THE STUDIO.

MAMA, GIMME MY ALLOW-ANCE!

ME TOO, MAMA!

YEAH, YEAH. MAMA! MAMA!

PAT MY HEAD!

UGH...!

REMEMBER, AT WORK, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MY KIDS.

I'M AI FROM STRAW-BERRY PRODUC-TIONS.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU TODAY.

8AM

STAARE

IS SOMETHING THE MATTER, DIRECTOR?

NO, NOT REALLY.

WHO ARE THESE KIDS?

OH, THEY'RE MINE.

PSST

IT'S HIS FACE.

HE'S KINDA SCARY.

PSST

GLARE

WHAT KIND OF MANAGER BRINGS HER KIDS TO THE STUDIO?

JOLT

IS THIS THAT *WORK STYLE REFORM LAW?*

PHEW

TIMES HAVE CHANGED...

WELL, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO BRING THEIR DOGS TO WORK TOO, I GUESS.

TWINS!!!

SO CUTE~!

From Staff

THIS ONE IS THE YOUNG CELEB WHO'S CALLED "THE CUTEST TALENTED ACTRESS"...

OHHH! THIS GIRL IS A GRAVURE MODEL, I THINK...

DON'T PRETEND TO BE A CUTE, INNOCENT KID!

GOO GOO!

GA GA!

HM?

AREN'T YOU THAT MANAGER'S KID?

THIS IS BAD... MY BODY WON'T HOLD OUT...

OH, UM, WE MAY BE BABIES, BUT WE'LL ENDEAVOR TO NOT MAKE ANY CARELESS MISTAKES LIKE THAT!

I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE HERE, BUT IF YOU START CRYING AND WE HAVE TO STOP FILMING, I'M GONNA KICK YOU OUT.

GLARE

THIS BABY TALKS LIKE CRAZY!

PLEASE CONTINUE TO WORK WITH AI FROM OUR COMPANY...

ペコ ペコ

BOW BOW

WE'RE AWARE THAT NOT INTERFERING WITH PROGRESS IS THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL RULE OF FILMING.

NO...I DON'T DO THAT KIND OF STUFF..

ARE YOU AN ACTOR TOO?

I'VE SEEN A LOT OF PRECOCIOUS CHILD ACTORS, BUT YOU TAKE THE CAKE.

WHOA!!! FROM YOUTUBE?!

I PICKED UP A FEW FROM *YOUTUBE*...

WHERE DID YOU LEARN ALL THOSE WORDS?!

TIMES HAVE CHANGED !!!

I WANNA USE YOU FOR SOME-THING.

YOU'D BE INTEREST-ING ON THE SCREEN.

NO, THANK YOU...

IF YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE ME WORK, I'D RATHER YOU GIVE IT TO AI...

CALL ME IF YOU JOIN AN AGENCY.

HERE'S MY BUSI-NESS CARD.

SHE NEEDS LUCK EVEN THOUGH HER FACE IS INCREDI-BLE?

SHE'S GOT AN INCREDI-BLE FACE.

SHE'LL SURVIVE IF SHE'S LUCKY.

OH, THAT IDOL?

THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF ACTORS.

LISTEN HERE.

Supporting Actor Award

NEXT IS THE TALENTED TYPE.

THEIR ROLE IS TO ENSURE QUALITY.

IT'S THEIR JOB TO UPHOLD THE PROGRAMMING BLOCK'S BRAND.

Film Award

Audience Rating

THEIR FIRST JOB IS TO BRING IN VIEWERS.

ONE OF THEM IS THE *STAR ACTOR.*

SINCE THEY ALSO ACT AS THE FACE OF THE PROGRAM, THEY GET PAID WELL.

TOO CUTE

Viewership Boost

Box Office Record

SQUEE

SQUEE

AS LONG AS THEY BRING FRESHNESS TO THE SCREEN, THEY GET A PASSING GRADE.

LAST IS THE *NEWCOMER.*

NO ONE'S EXPECTING ACTING ABILITY FROM THEM.

...OTHERWISE, THE NEXT NEWCOMER WILL TAKE THEIR PLACE.

THEY HAVE TO EITHER BE POPULAR WITH THE VIEWERS OR LIKED BY THE STAFF...

IN OTHER WORDS, ALL OF THE NEWCOMERS OVER THERE ARE AT THE "RECEIVING INVESTMENT"

ANOTHER REASON WE USE THEM IS TO GIVE UPCOMING STARS SOME EXPERIENCE.

IT'S AN INDUSTRY-WIDE INVESTMENT.

...IF A SINGLE ONE OF THEM SURVIVES, IT'LL BE CONSIDERED A GREAT SUCCESS.

THAT'S THE KIND OF WORLD THIS IS.

OUT OF ALL THE NEWCOMERS AT THIS FILMING...

YOU'LL ONLY SURVIVE IF YOU'RE TOP-CLASS AT SOMETHING.

HMM...

AI WILL BE FINE, THEN.

SHE'S A TOP-CLASS IDOL.

THE 74TH CUT IS READY TO BE FILMED.

BEING A TOP-CLASS IDOL ISN'T ENOUGH.

NO...

CLAP

カット

cut 74

CUT 74!

EARLIER, SHE WAS SAYING THAT...

RIGHT?

BUT SHE'S AN ATTENTION STEALER.

HER ACTING IS AVER-AGE...

...FROM EVERY ANGLE.

BUT...

...ON STAGE, SHE HAS TO LOOK CUTE FOR EVERY-ONE...

IF THE SAME TRICKS SHE USES FOR MUSIC VIDEOS WILL WORK...

THEN THIS IS ACTUALLY HER FIELD OF EXPER-TISE.

...HERE, SHE ONLY NEEDS ONE PERSON— THE CAM-ERA—TO THINK SHE'S CUTE.

I'll even lend you them!

THEY'RE REALLY GOOD, SO I HIGHLY RECOM-MEND WATCHING THEM!

TIMES HAVE CHANGED...

A MUSIC VIDEO PERSPEC-TIVE?

One month later...

NEWS WWN

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE MAMA'S ACTING!

THEY TOOK QUITE A LOT OF FOOTAGE.

IT'S TIME FOR THE SHOW TO AIR!

OH! THIS IS THE SCENE!

...

...

ZOOM IN ON HER!!!

OH! IT'S MAMA !!!

...

THEY ONLY SHOWED HER FOR LIKE A SECOND IN ONE SCENE!!!

HUH?! THAT'S IT?!

RRRING

That's not true!

I wonder if my acting was bad...

Card, Business Card

HEY, DIREC-TOR!

YOU DIDN'T USE AI AT ALL!

IT'S YOU, THE PRECO-CIOUS BABY.

OH...

WHY'D YOU DO IT, THEN?!

OH, THAT...

IT WAS A SHAME WE HAD TO CUT HER PARTS EVEN THOUGH THEY CAME OUT WELL.

THE PRODUCTION COMPANY IS MARKETING THE LEAD ACTRESS AS "THE CUTEST TALENTED ACTRESS."

AI WAS TOO CUTE FOR THAT SCREEN.

BUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF SOMEONE WITH A CUTER FACE WAS IN THE SAME FRAME?

IT'D BE PROBLEMATIC FOR THEIR VISUAL STRATEGY, RIGHT?

...but isn't the girl on the right cuter?

They call her the cutest...

THINK OF IT AS AN ACCIDENT AND ACCEPT IT.

THE LENGTH OF SCREENTIME TENDS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE POWER BALANCE BETWEEN THE COMPANIES.

WHAT THE HECK?

WE HAD TO CUT OUT AS MUCH OF HER AS POSSIBLE DURING THE EDITING STAGE.

AND SO, DUE TO THE HIGHER-UPS' WISHES...

I CAN'T ACCEPT THIS.

BUT, WELL, I DO GET YOUR POINT, AND I DO FEEL BAD ABOUT IT.

IT'S NOT EXACTLY A REPLACE-MENT, BUT...

THIS ISN'T A PLACE FOR ART. IT'S A PLACE FOR BUSINESS.

IT'S OKAY TO DREAM ABOUT SHOWBIZ...

BUT IT'S BETTER NOT TO.

...I WANT TO GIVE AI SOME WORK.

BUT...

WHAT? REALLY?

IT'S FOR A FILM. NO COMPLAINTS THERE, RIGHT?

...IT'S ON THE CONDITION THAT YOU APPEAR TOO.

AKA AKASAKA x MENGO YOKOYARI

【CHAPTER 6】 【推しの子】

Interview #5
【Actress】Edition

Kana Arima-san, about your reputation as a genius actor...

I'M NOT A GENIUS.

IF ANYTHING, I THINK I'M ONLY HERE RIGHT NOW...

BECAUSE I REALIZED EARLY ON THAT I WASN'T ONE.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I THINK I'M LOSING!

EVEN A GENIUS WILL DIE IF THEY'RE STABBED WITH A KNIFE!

THIS IS MY WAY OF FIGHTI—

OH, PLEASE KEEP THOSE COMMENTS OFF THE RECORD.

A-kun will get mad at me...

THAT METAPHOR WAS FAR TOO INAP-PROPRIATE.

I'VE ALWAYS HAD A FOUL MOUTH, BUT IT'S NOT ON PURPOSE...

IT'S JUST THAT WHEN I'M WORKED UP, I USE STRONG LANGUAGE WITHOUT THINKING...

PLEASE CUT THIS PART TOO...

Translated by Minna Lin
Lettered by YKS Services, LLC
Edited by Jordan Reynolds
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THE HIGHER-UPS ARE FIGHTING THEIR OWN BATTLE...

TO SECURE ACTORS WHO CAN GUARANTEE AN AUDI-ENCE.

THE MORE MONEY THEY SPEND ON A PROJECT, THE LESS THEY CAN AFFORD FOR IT TO FLOP.

LISTEN UP, GIFTED KID.

THE CASTING IS MOSTLY DECIDED BY THE PEOPLE AT THE TOP.

In Japan's case.

...AND *DIRECTORS OF SMALL-SCALE FILMS WITH TINY BUD-GETS.*

NOW, WHICH ONE OF THOSE DO I LOOK LIKE?

THE ONLY DIRECTORS WITH A SAY IN THE CAST ARE *A SELECT HANDFUL OF HUGE NAMES...*

CHAPTER 6 CHILD ACTORS

...

ONE OF THE SELECT HANDFUL—

YEAH, NO.

POINT IS, THIS IS A LOW-BUDGET FILM SET.

BOW

BOW

AQUA WILL BE IN YOUR CARE TODAY.

WAIT, YOU HANDLED THE THING WE TALKED ABOUT, RIGHT?

Strawberry Productions
Child Actor Aqua

MORE OR LESS...

PEOPLE WILL GET MAD AT ME IF I USE A CHILD ACTOR WHO ISN'T WITH AN AGENCY.

I'M CASTING AI IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR APPEARANCE.

IN THE INDUSTRY, WE CALL THIS BARTERING.

IT'S A FUNDAMENTAL, SO REMEMBER IT WELL.

NO, IT HAS TO BE YOU.

MY SISTER SLEEPING OVER THERE IS BETTER AT ACTING THAN ME.

YOU SHOULD GET HER TO DO IT...

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING NOTABLE.

WHAT IN THE WORLD DID YOU DO THAT RESULTED IN THIS?

THAT SCARY-LOOKING DIRECTOR HAS TAKEN A REAL LIKING TO YOU, HUH?

AI-SAN'S SON IS BEING USED AS A BARTER FOR HER...

WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT WEIRD SKILL WOULD COME IN HANDY NOW?

I TREATED THE ELDERLY AT THE GENERAL HOSPITAL, SO I KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH OLDER PEOPLE.

THIS BABY IS REALLY UNPLEASANT...

FOR SOME REASON, OLD MEN ***TEND TO ENJOY IT*** WHEN YOUNG PEOPLE ARE CASUAL TOWARDS THEM...

SO I REFRAINED FROM EXAGGERATING IN MY INTERACTIONS.

SIGH.

I WANNA GO BACK TO MAMA!!!

MAMAAA!

WHY ISN'T MAMA HERE?!

MAMAAAAA!!!

Waaah

I WANNA GA-GA IN MAMA'S CHEST!!!

I WANNA GO HOME AND GOO-GOO!!!

AI'S FILMING ON A DIFFERENT DAY.

SLAM

ISN'T SHE EMBARRASSED TO BE DOING THAT AT HER AGE?

Not that I know what her real age is...

BRING ME BACK TO GOO-GOO-GA-GA LAND!!!

WAH

WAH

JAB

THIS IS A PROFESSIONAL SHOOTING!

IF YOU'RE JUST HERE TO PLAY, GO HOME!

I'M KANA ARIMA. WE'LL BE CO-ACTING TODAY.

UH...

UMM, WHAT DID THEY CALL HER AGAIN?

...OH! ISN'T SHE THAT ONE KID?

THE GENIUS CHILD ACTOR WHO CAN CRY ON THE SPOT!!!

THE GENIUS CHILD ACTOR WHO CAN LIE ON A YACHT?

Why's it so?

SOME PEOPLE ARE WEIRDLY HARSH WHEN IT COMES TO CHILD ACTORS.

I INSTINCTIVELY FEEL INCOMPATIBLE WITH HER.

I DON'T REALLY LIKE THIS KID... SHE SEEMS KIND OF FAKE.

BECAUSE IT IS AMAZING!

EVERYONE SAYS THE WAY I CRY IN DRAMAS IS AMAZING!

今話題の早泣き子役!!

The fast-crying child star everyone's talking about!!!

YOU GOT IN WITH CONNECTIONS!

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID!

I WATCHED THE DRAMA HE DIRECTED A WHILE BACK, AND SHE BARELY GOT ANY SCREEN-TIME AT ALL.

NO, THAT'S NOT—

THAT KIND OF STUFF IS WRONG!

MAMA SAID THE DIRECTOR FORCED YOU INTO THE CAST!

YOU AND THAT IDOL WEREN'T HERE FOR THE SCRIPT-READING STAGE!

それが始まり

Script: How It Began

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ONLY GOOD AT SUCKING UP TO PEOPLE!

HER ACTING MUST'VE BEEN SO BAD THAT THEY HAD TO CUT IT, RIGHT?

UMM, GIVE ME A SECOND...

?

A.D.*, HOLD MY BAG!

*A.D.: Assistant Director

SNAP

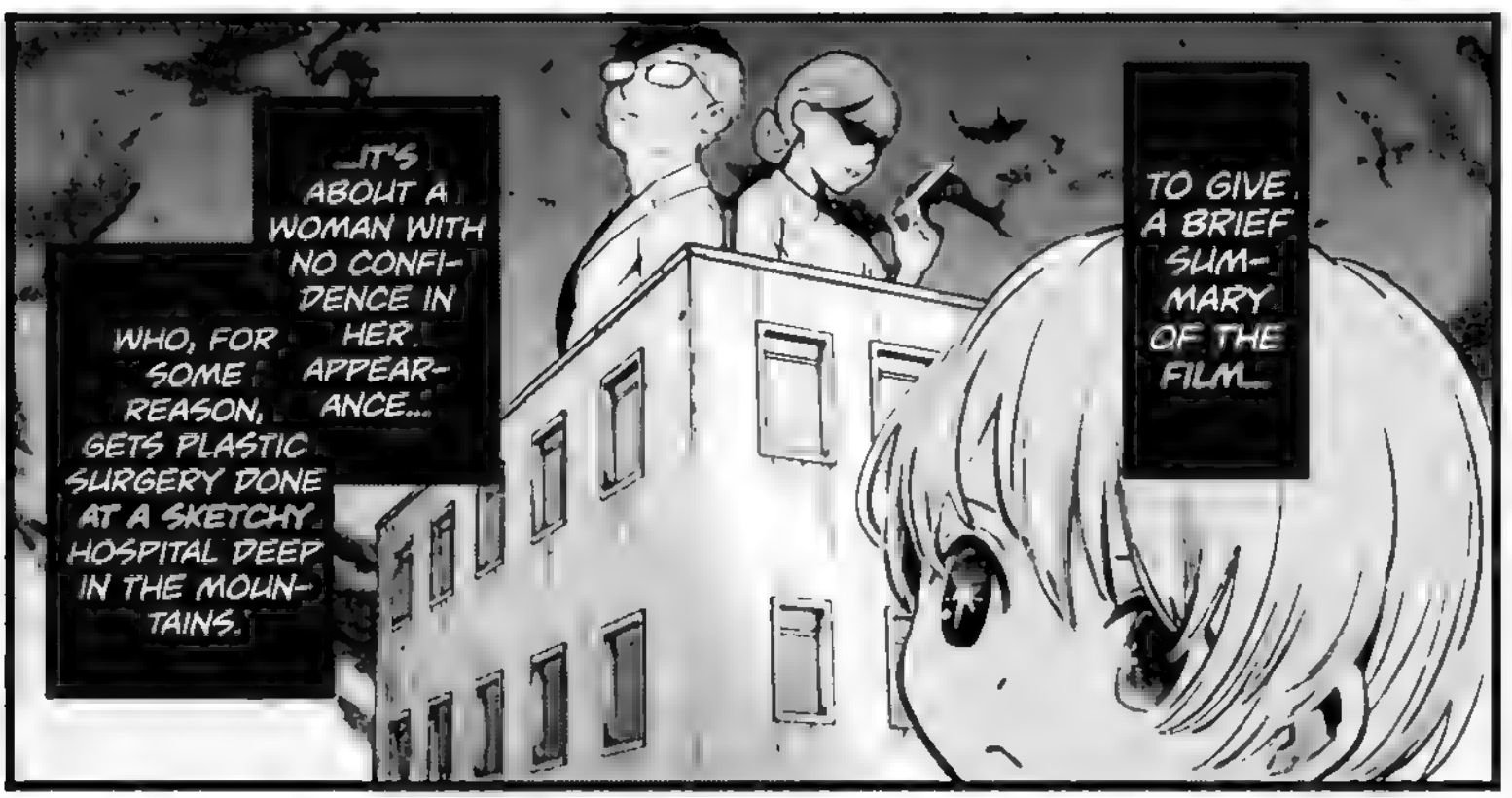
I KNOW, SHE'S JUST A KID...

I WON'T KILL HER...

AQUA.

SNAP

ALL RIGHT, ROLL CAMERA!


...IT'S ABOUT A WOMAN WITH NO CONFI-DENCE IN HER APPEAR-ANCE...
WHO, FOR SOME REASON, GETS PLASTIC SURGERY DONE AT A SKETCHY HOSPITAL DEEP IN THE MOUN-TAINS.
TO GIVE A BRIEF SUM-MARY OF THE FILM...

Sign: Sakayu Village

WELCOME TO OUR VILLAGE...

GREETINGS, VISITOR.

PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME...

EVEN A TOTAL AMATEUR CAN TELL THAT MUCH.

IF I TRY TO DO THE SAME THING, THE DIFFERENCE IN ABILITY WILL BE UNBEARABLE TO WATCH.

A GENIUS CHILD ACTOR INDEED.

HER ACTING IS GOOD.

THE OBVIOUS APPROACH WOULD BE TO ACT LIKE A CREEPY KID...

WHAT DO I DO, THEN?

Script:
Creepy kids guide the way
Child A
Child B

THE PICTURE THE DIRECTOR WANTS MUST BE...

...BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT HE'S LOOKING FOR, IS IT?

AFTER CHECKING IN, YOU MAY HAVE A LOOK AROUND.

THIS VILLAGE ONLY HAS ONE GUEST-HOUSE FOR VISITORS.

TAKING HIS INTENT INTO CONSIDER-ATION...

THIS PART OF THE SCRIPT WAS ADDED ON SHORT NOTICE.

THE DIRECTOR WROTE IT KNOWING IT'D BE ME PER-FORMING IT.

"YOU AND THAT IDOL WEREN'T HERE FOR THE SCRIPT-READ-ING STAGE..."

...I SHOULDN'T PUT ON AN ACT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

THE DIRECTOR DIDN'T PUT IT IN WORDS...

...BUT WHAT HE'S TRYING TO SAY IS...

ALL THAT MATTERS IS BEING FAITHFUL TO THE DIRECTION.

"YOU'RE CREEPY ENOUGH WITHOUT ANY ACTING."

It was just the normal Aqua, huh?

CUT! MOVING ON!

REALLY?

THAT'S GOOD.

THAT WAS AMAZING. YOU GAVE ME CHILLS.

NO, IT'S NOT.

THERE'S A HUGE PROB-LEM!

HM?

NO, THERE AREN'T ANY PROBLEMS WITH IT.

DIRECTOR, RETAKE THAT SCENE.

JUST NOW...

...I WAS WAY WORSE THAN THE OTHER KID!

I DON'T WANT THIS!

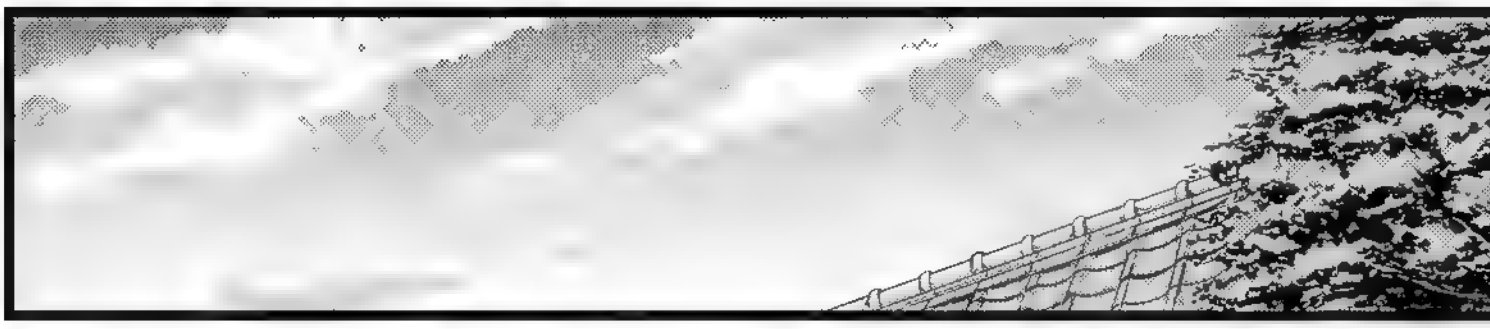
RETAKE IT!

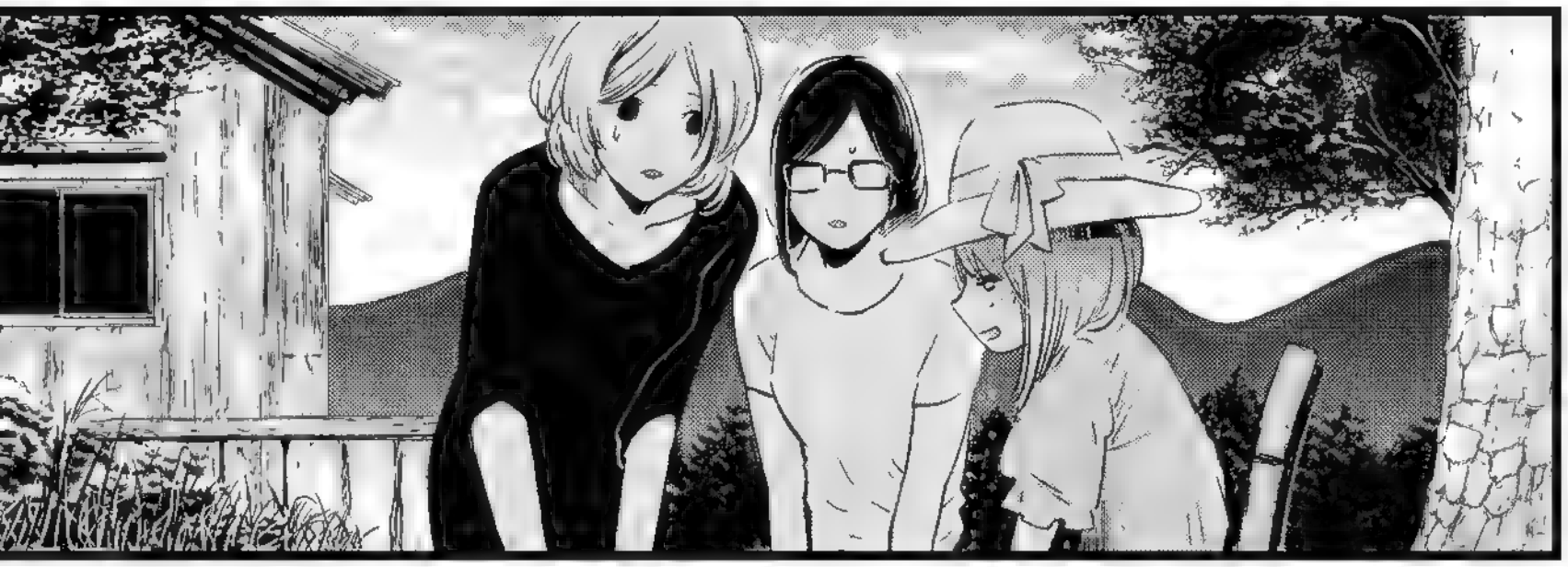
PLEASE!!!

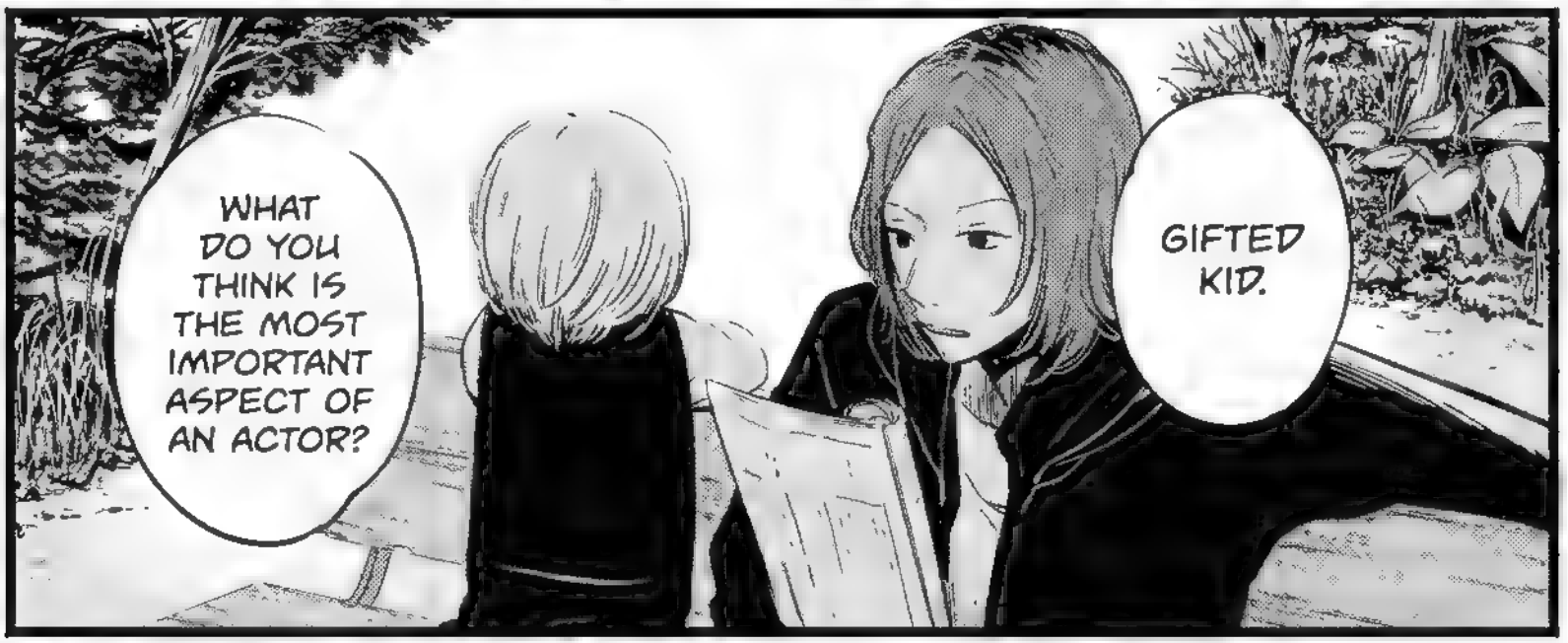
I'LL DO BETTER THIS TIME!

ONE MORE TIME!

PLEASE!






WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF AN ACTOR?
GIFTED KID.

...BUT IN THE END...
IT'S ABOUT COM-MUNI-CATION.

WELL, THOSE ARE IMPORT-ANT...
TALENT OR SENSE?
MOTIVA-TION AND EFFORT?
HMM...

IF THE OTHER ACTORS OR THE CREW DON'T LIKE YOU, YOUR WORK WILL DRY OUT FAST.

THERE'S NO FUTURE FOR A STUCK-UP KID WHO'S ALREADY PRETENDING TO BE A HOT-SHOT.

WERE YOU TRYING TO SCOLD THAT GIRL?

I WASN'T THINKING OF ANYTHING THAT GRAND...

BUT THIS IS A KIND OF NOURISH-MENT TOO.

YOUR ACTING...

...MATCHED MY VISION PERFECTLY.

THE OTHER GIRL'S ACTING WAS A LOT BETTER.

I WAS JUST BEING MY USUAL SELF...

BUT I NEVER TOLD YOU TO DO THAT.

SENSING MY INTENT IS A FORM OF COMMUNICA-TION TOO.

I'D DO ANYTHING TO HAVE THEM.

RIGHT ANSWER.

BECAUSE THE DIRECTOR HAS A CORRECT IMAGE OF THE SCENE IN HIS MIND.

BUT ACTORS WHO CAN SENSE INTENTS THAT CAN'T BE PUT INTO WORDS ARE VALUABLE...

OBVIOUSLY, UNDERSTANDING DIRECTION AND INTENT IS A FUNDAMENTAL OF ACTING.

BECOME AN ACTOR...

WHO CAN GIVE THE PERFECT PERFORMANCE RATHER THAN A GREAT ONE.

NO...

I WON'T BECOME AN ACTOR.

THIS IS HOW ...

...I GOT MY FOOT IN THE DOOR OF THIS INDUSTRY.

AQUA...

A STAGE NAME WHILE HE'S A MINOR, HUH?

I'VE MEMO-RIZED IT.

I WON'T LOSE NEXT TIME...

MY ENCOUN-TER HERE...

WOULD GAIN MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE AFTER MANY YEARS.

...AND MADE GREAT STRIDES.

...WAS THE YEAR AI TURNED TWENTY...

AND TWO YEARS LATER...

〖CHAPTER 7〗

Interview #6 【Preschool Staff】 Edition

AND I'D SAY THE SISTER HAD THE INTELLIGENCE OF AN ELEMENTARY OR MIDDLE SCHOOLER.
THE BROTHER WAS ALWAYS READING DIFFICULT BOOKS...
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD SAY THEY WERE GIFTED.
I'D LIKE TO SEE THEIR FACES AGAIN WHILE I'M STILL ALIVE.
AND WE RECEIVED MINIMAL CONTACT BEFORE THEY CHANGED SCHOOLS.
THEY HAD A LOT GOING ON AT HOME...
WHEN THEY WERE IN THEIR LAST YEAR?
OH MY.
GOSH, THIS IS INCREDIBLE.
IS THAT SO?
OH?
週刊映画
Magazine: Weekly Cinema

Translated by Minna Lin
Lettered by YKS Services, LLC
Edited by Jordan Reynolds
MEDIA DO Co. Ltd. / YKS Services LLC / SKY Japan, INC.

THREE YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE I WAS REBORN AS AI'S CHILD.

CHAPTER 7
IF YOU'RE SCARED OF FALLING, YOU'LL FALL EVEN MORE

THE FILM FROM TWO YEARS AGO WAS FAIRLY WELL RECEIVED...

...AND THE DIRECTOR WAS NOMINATED FOR SOME KIND OF BEST DIRECTOR AWARD.

Screen: How it Began

LOOKING BACK, I THINK MY ACTING WAS RATHER BRILLIANT.

BUT...

...IN THE END...

...IT WAS AI WHO STOLE THE SHOW.

主人公

Sign: Main Character

I DON'T KNOW IF THAT WAS THE CATA-LYST...

BUT SHE STARTED GETTING A LOT MORE WORK.

Magazine: Playboy

IF I WERE TO DE-SCRIBE HER IN A FEW WORDS...

ドッキリ大成功!!!

...I'D SAY SHE'S A "RISING STAR" RIGHT NOW.

Sign: Pranked!!!

AI WILL BE TURNING TWENTY SOON.

WE HAVEN'T BEEN EX-POSED TO THE PUBLIC YET, SO WE'RE LIVING OUR DAILY LIVES AS NORMAL.

AS FOR SOMETHING THAT ACTUALLY MATTERS...

...STILL HASN'T BEEN FOUND.

22:01

Goro missing doctor

Gugule

Goro missing doctor

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TK https://
Nagoya's Midori Visiting Clinic is Where Young Doctors Can Grow

Let's look at the young Dr. Goro as an example. Goro (male doctor), Present: 2018, 7 Years Later: 2025, 42 ...
Goro (male doctor): Present: 2018

Missing: ~~Goro~~ | Must include: Goro

Interview with Goro Honda, Digestive Surgeon | Seikeikai Medical Corporation New Tokyo Hospital

...MY DEAD BODY...

VERY CUTE!!!

YEP, LOOKING CUTE TODAY!!!

WE STARTED GOING TO PRE-SCHOOL.

WHAT'S WITH THIS RIVALRY?

WELL, MAMA'S CUTER OVERALL.

WHAT WERE YOU DOING BEFORE YOU WERE REBORN, ANYWAY?

ACTUALLY, WHAT'S YOUR REAL AGE?

UMM...

IF SHE'S THE YOUNGER ONE.

WHAT?

YOU WERE *JUST A KID* ALL ALONG?

GASP!!

LISTEN TO WHAT I SAY FROM NOW ON, *BRAT*.

I...

I'M AN ADULT WOMAN, YOU KNOW?!

ONLY A KID WITH NO TACT WOULD ASK A WOMAN FOR HER AGE!

Ruby

WHO CARES ABOUT MY PAST LIFE ANYWAY?!

STOP PRYING!

WELL...

YOU HAVE A POINT.

THINKING ABOUT MY PAST LIFE IS DEPRESSING.

THAT'S HOW MUCH I LIKE MY CURRENT LIFE.

BEING A PRE-SCHOOLER IS SO EASY COMPARED TO MY DAYS OF TOILING AWAY AT WORK.

I JUST EAT, SLEEP, AND READ A BOOK WHEN I FEEL LIKE IT.

HUH?

A PRESCHOOLER IS READING ONE OF NATSUHIKO KYOGOKU'S HUGE TOMES...

...BUT I'M SURPRISED SHE CAN PLAY ON THE PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT SO SERIOUSLY.

Book: Natsuhiko Kyogoku - Jorogumo no Kotowari

THAT'S WHEN IT HAPPENED.

OKAY, EVERYONE!

IT'S PLAYTIME!

YOUR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS WILL BE COMING TO WATCH YOU DANCE!

LET'S PRACTICE AS HARD AS WE CAN!

RUBY-CHAN?!

DASH

NO!!!

I DON'T WANNA!!!

WERE YOU COOPED UP PLAYING IN YOUR ROOM ALL THE TIME?

I SWEAR, KIDS THESE DAYS.

WHAT?

WELL, MORE LIKE I'VE NEVER DONE IT.

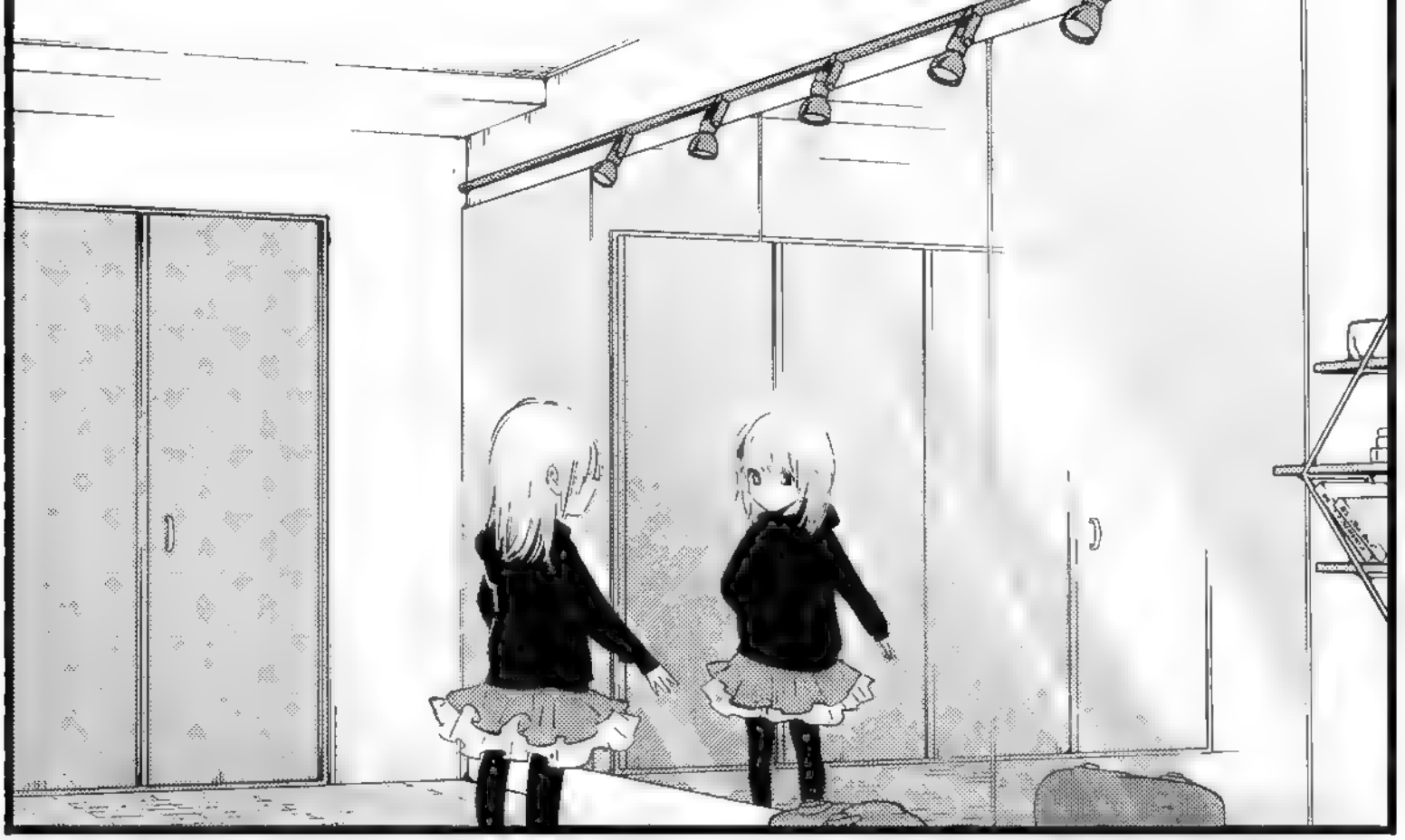
'CUZ I'M NOT GOOD AT DANCING.

WHY'D YOU RUN AWAY?

HUFF
HUFF

I DON'T THINK I'M CUT OUT FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES.
I TRIED A BUNCH OF TIMES, BUT I COULDN'T DO IT.
WELL...
SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

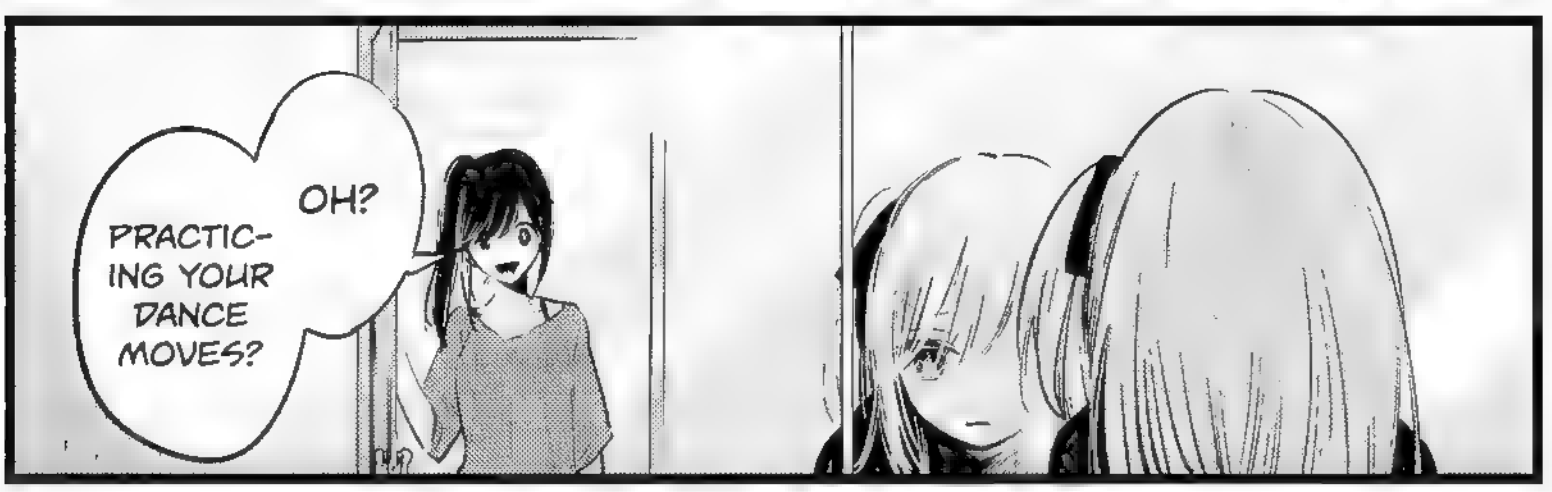
YOU HAVE...
A LONG LIFE AHEAD OF YOU.
BUT ARE YOU OKAY WITH THIS?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH...



ステーン
FLOP

あた
PANIC
あた
PANIC

よた
TOTTER
よた
TOTTER


OH?
PRACTIC-
ING YOUR
DANCE
MOVES?

OH, IT'S THIS SONG!

WE'RE PERFORMING AN OLD SONG AT OUR NEXT CONCERT, SO I HAVE TO PRACTICE IT.

LEMME JOIN YOU, THEN.

MAMA...

THAT MOVEMENT IS A BIT OFF.

YOUR HAND WAS HIGHER WHEN YOU PERFORMED AT BUDOKAN.

OH?

DID YOU WATCH MY CONCERT VIDEOS?

YOU HAVE A GOOD MEMORY.

OF COURSE I REMEMBER.

I HAVE ALL OF HER CHOREOG-RAPHY MEMO-RIZED.

I WATCHED MAMA'S CONCERTS HUN-DREDS—

NO, THOU-SANDS OF TIMES.

WOBBLE

HOW WAS IT AGAIN?

THIS PART WAS MORE LIKE—

FLOP

IT'S AS IF SHE'S PREPARED TO FALL.

THE WAY RUBY MOVES...

IF I DIDN'T BRACE MYSELF, I'D GET HURT.

IT'S BECAUSE I WAS ALWAYS FALLING.

STAND MORE PROUDLY...

WITH YOUR CHEST OUT.

IF YOU'RE SCARED OF FALLING, YOU'LL FALL EVEN MORE.

YOU'LL BE FINE.

TRUST ME.

...WAS SPENT IN A HOSPITAL ROOM.

MOST OF MY LIFE...

SO, I CONTIN-UED TO ADMIRE HER.

EVEN STANDING UP WAS HARD.

MY BODY WAS IMPAIRED AND DIDN'T DO WHAT I WANTED IT TO.

I HAVE ALL OF HER CHOREOGRAPHY MEMORIZED.

ALL OF HER AMAZING MOVES...

...ARE ETCHED INTO MY BRAIN.

ALL OF THAT LIGHT...

...IS BURNED INTO MY RETINAS.

IT'S MY LIGHT.

IF ONLY I COULD MOVE LIKE THAT...

...SO FREELY...

MORE ...

I...
...CAN DANCE TOO!
YES...
...MY BODY...
MOVE MORE ...
MOVE EVEN MORE!!!

THIS GIRL...

SHE WAS GOOD AT ACTING TOO.

SHE HAS A GREAT SENSE FOR DANCE...

...AND HER MOTHER'S GOOD LOOKS.

I JUST HAD A SCARY THOUGHT.

【CHAPTER 8】

Interview #7
【Former Manager】Edition

WHO'S THAT? NEVER HEARD OF HIM.

YOU'RE STRAWBERRY PRODUCTIONS' FORMER PRESIDENT...

ICHIGO SAITO-SAN, RIGHT?

I HEAR HER SUCCESS WAS BECAUSE OF YOUR SKILL, PRESIDENT SAITO.

THAT YEAR...

AI-SAN WAS APPROACHING HER TWENTIETH BIRTHDAY...

AND THE PEAK OF HER POPULARITY.

SHUT UP!

SO, WHY ARE YOU NOW—

YOU PERSONALLY SCOUTED AI-SAN AND RAISED HER INTO A STAR.

I'M BEGGING YOU, LEAVE ME AND AI ALONE!

MY LIFE WAS OVER TOO!

THE MOMENT I LOST AI...

Translated by Minna Lin
Lettered by YKS Services, LLC
Edited by Jordan Reynolds
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HEY...

THE KIDS ARE PRETTY BIG NOW.

DON'T YOU WANT TO MEET THEM?

CHAPTER 8
AI HOSHINO: PART 1

I SOMEHOW WOUND UP CONTACTING THE GUY I BROKE UP WITH.

NO, THIS ISN'T ABOUT GETTING BACK TO-GETHER.

IT WAS BECAUSE I'D OVER-HEARD MY KIDS TALKING.

I TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT...

BUT WHO ON EARTH IS OUR FATHER?

ACK... JUST THE THOUGHT MAKES ME DE-PRESSED.

IDIOT.

YOU'D GET DE-PRESSED OVER SOME-THING THAT PETTY?

SHE WAS COMING TO A WEIRD CONCLUSION. IT WAS PRETTY CONCERNING.

THERE WAS NO MAN IN THE FIRST PLACE.

IT WAS A VIRGIN BIRTH, OF COURSE.

YEAH. MY NEW ADDRESS IS...

OUR KIDS ARE REALLY SMART. THEY'LL UNDERSTAND OUR SITUATION.

THE WORLD IS LOOKING AT ME.

I REACHED A MILLION FOLLOW-ERS.

WORK IS GOING WELL.

Screen: Ai
Joined 20XX
7 Following 1,004,231
Followed by Daisuke,

BUT...

HERE'S TO OUR NEW OFFICE! DRINK UP!

MAN, THIS SAKE TASTES GOOD!

STOP IT.

WOW, IT'S MORIIZO!

Screen: Peak Viewer Rate

14.2%

THE TV DRAMA AI'S STARRING IN IS GETTING HIGH RATINGS!

B-KOMA-CHI'S GOT A PACKED SCHEDULE TOO...

AI-SAN TURNS TWENTY NEXT WEEK.

OH YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.

PLEASE BE PATIENT UNTIL THEN.

TOKYO DOME

GAHAHAHA!

...AND NEXT WEEK, WE'RE FINALLY GOING TO THE DOME!

WELL, IT'S THE WHOLE COMPANY'S DREAM, NOT JUST HIS.

IS THE DOME REALLY THAT AMAZING?

HIS DREAM TO TAKE AN IDOL HE PRODUCED TO TOKYO DOME.

IT'S BEEN...

HE'S IN A GOOD MOOD, HUH?

IT HAS A DIFFERENT CONNOTATION FROM OTHER VENUES.

YOU CAN'T EVEN BOOK A SLOT WITHOUT GOING THROUGH A SPECIALIZED COMPANY...

...AND THERE'S A STRICT SCREENING PROCESS TO VERIFY THAT THE ARTIST IS WORTHY OF PERFORMING THERE...

AND THAT THE STAFF HAS THE SKILL AND EXPERIENCE TO MANAGE A LARGE AUDIENCE.

ONLY A SELECT HANDFUL OF ARTISTS CAN GO UP ON THAT STAGE.

THE DOME IS EVERYONE'S DREAM.

OH, YEAH?

Bottle: Morrizo

IT'S A VENUE THAT REQUIRES A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT FROM THE STAFF.

IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT HAVING MONEY.

EVERYONE IS HAPPY WHEN I'M SUCCESSFUL...

...SO I'LL ACT PLEASED TOO.

I'M A LIAR.

OF COURSE.

DO NOT TRY TO MEET THE KIDS' FATHER OR ANYTHING.

IT'S AN IMPORTANT TIME. DON'T GET INTO ANY SCANDALS.

MAMA!

WHAT'S REAL AND WHAT'S FAKE.

EVEN I DON'T KNOW...

I SAY THE RIGHT WORDS FOR THE SITUATION WITHOUT EVEN THINKING.

I'VE... NEVER BEEN GOOD AT LOVING ANYTHING.

THERE, THERE.

STARBUCKS COFFEE

...I COULD POSSIBLY BE SUITED FOR BEING AN IDOL.

I DIDN'T THINK...

THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SCOUTING ME FOR?

AN IDOL? ME?

NICE JOKE.

...I ENDED UP TALKING TO A MAN WHO APPROACHED ME OUT OF THE BLUE...

LURED BY A MATCHA LATTE...

...BUT HE WAS AN IDOL RECRUITER.

I THINK YOU HAVE A GOOD SHOT AT THE CENTER POSITION.

WE'RE PUTTING TOGETHER AN IDOL UNIT WITH THE MIDDLE SCHOOL MODELS AT OUR AGENCY.

I'M NOT INTERESTED.

NO, YOU'RE DEFINITELY CUT OUT FOR IT.

I GUARANTEE IT.

...

I'M FROM AN ORPHAN-AGE.

I THINK YOU SHOULD GIVE UP.

I...DIDN'T HAVE A DAD.

WHEN I WAS LITTLE, MY MOM WAS ARRESTED FOR STEAL-ING...

AND I WAS SENT TO AN ORPHAN-AGE.

BUT EVEN WHEN SHE WAS RE-LEASED...

...SHE DIDN'T COME TO GET ME.

I THOUGHT A LITTLE SCARE...

WOULD GET THE RECRUITER TO LEAVE.

WELL, NOT THAT I MIND.

BEING IN AN ORPHANAGE IS BETTER THAN GETTING ABUSED.

I HAVE NO MEMORIES OF LOVING OR BEING LOVED.

SOMEONE LIKE THAT COULD NEVER BE AN IDOL, RIGHT?

MY IDEA OF AN IDOL WAS A PURE BEING WHO SMILED EVERYWHERE AND MADE OTHERS SMILE...

...THE COMPLETE OPPOSITE OF ME, A LIAR AND MISAN-THROPE.

I DIDN'T THINK I COULD EVER BE SUITED FOR IT.

I'M SURE I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LOVE MY FANS...

AND THEY WOULDN'T LOVE ME EITHER.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

IT'S NOT A JOB SUITED FOR NORMAL PEOPLE TO BEGIN WITH...

AND THAT BACK-GROUND WOULD MAKE YOU UNIQUE, RIGHT?

...B-

BUT...

...IDOLS SAY STUFF LIKE, "I LOVE YOU ALL!"

IF I SAID THAT, IT'D BE A LIE...

IT'S FINE TO LIE.

I'M COOL WITH IT.

COME ON, JOIN US.

IF ANY-THING, THE AUDIENCE *WANTS* PRETTY LIES.

LYING IS A TALENT TOO.

REALLY?

IT'S OKAY IF I'M LYING...

...WHEN I SAY "I LOVE YOU"?

OH...

THAT'S A GOOD FACE.

YOU SAY A LOT...

...BUT DEEP DOWN, YOU WANT TO LOVE PEOPLE TOO, DON'T YOU?

YOU JUST DON'T KNOW HOW...

...AND YOU CAN'T FIND SOMEONE TO.

ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS SING AND DANCE CUTELY...

IF YOU BECOME AN IDOL...

AND THAT'LL BE AN EXPRESSION OF LOVE FOR YOUR FANS.

YOU'LL BE SINGING THE WORDS "I LOVE YOU" IN LYRICS ALL THE TIME.

AND HEY...

...WHILE YOU'RE TELLING EVERYONE YOU LOVE THEM...

AT SOME POINT, THE LIE MIGHT BECOME TRUE.

THOSE ARE THE WORDS THAT CONVINCED ME TO BECOME AN IDOL.

"THE LIE MIGHT BECOME TRUE."

I WANTED TO HAVE SOMEONE TO LOVE.

I WANTED TO LOVE SOMEONE.

I THOUGHT THAT IF I BECAME AN IDOL, I'D BE ABLE TO LOVE MY FANS.

...SO I KEPT LYING, "I LOVE YOU, I LOVE YOU."

...FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART...

I WANTED TO TRY SAYING "I LOVE YOU"...

AQUA.

RUBY.

I THOUGHT THAT IF I BECAME A MOTHER, I'D BE ABLE TO LOVE MY CHILDREN.

...HAVE YET TO TELL THEM THAT I LOVE THEM.

I STILL...

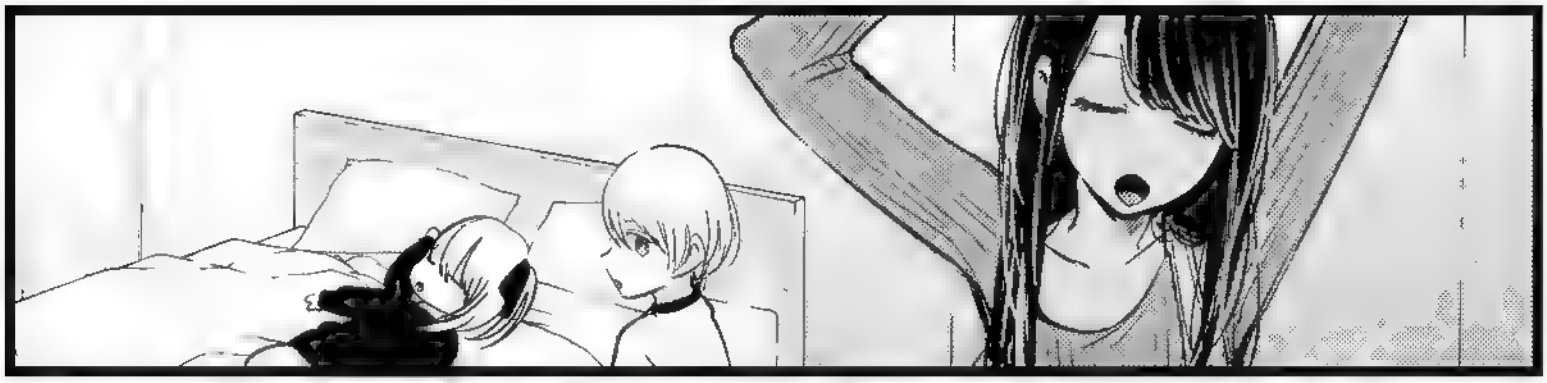
...I'LL REALIZE IT WAS A LIE.

...THAT IF I SAY IT...

I'M SCARED...

SO, TODAY I'LL CONTINUE TO LIE...

...AND HOPE THE LIES BECOME TRUE.



...I HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE ONE DAY.

EVEN IF...

Ai...

CON-
GRATS
ON YOUR
DOME
CON-
CERT.

HOW
ARE THE
TWINS?

〖CHAPTER 9〗

I'M NOT ACTING TO MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY.

I'M DOING IT FOR MYSELF.

IF YOU FEEL SOMETHING FROM MY ACTING, THAT'S YOUR PREROGATIVE.

Interview #8
【Actor】Edition

I DON'T LOVE ANYONE...

...AND IF SOMEONE LOVES ME, I WON'T GIVE THEM ANYTHING IN RETURN.

YOU SHOULD ONLY LOVE ME IF YOU'RE FINE WITH THAT.

TAKE IT HOWEVER YOU WANT.

ACTING IS...

...MY WAY OF REVENGE.

Translated by Minna Lin
Lettered by YKS Services, LLC
Edited by Jordan Reynolds
MEDIA DO Co. Ltd. / YKS Services LLC / SKY Japan, INC.

CHAPTER 9
Ai HOSHINO: PART 2

IT HURT EVEN MORE FOR ME!

I WAS IN SO MUCH PAIN!

DOES IT HURT?

HAHA!

ALL BECAUSE YOU HAD KIDS EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE AN IDOL!

YOU...

YOU FAN-BETRAY-ING SLUT!

THAT'S HOW THE WORLD SEES IT.

BUT IDOLS ARE HUMANS MADE OF FLESH AND BLOOD TOO.

IS IT WRONG FOR US TO SEEK OUR OWN HAPPI-NESS?

YOU IGNORED YOUR FANS' WISHES...

AND MADE FUN OF US BEHIND OUR BACKS THE WHOLE TIME!

I'M NOT DOING ANY-THING THAT MEAN.

YOU LIAR!!!

IT'S AN IDOL'S JOB TO SELL DREAMS.

...PURE, AND INNOCENT...

THEY'RE ALWAYS CUTE...

...SINGING ABOUT EARNEST LOVE.

I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO LOVE SOMEONE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

BUT I'M NOT INNOCENT. I'M DIRTY AND DISHONEST.

...SO THE ONLY WAY I CAN GIVE PEOPLE DREAMS...

ALL I HAVE GOING FOR ME IS THAT I'M CUTE...

...IS BY LYING.

YOU LURED US IN BY CONSTANT-LY SAYING YOU LOVED US!

BUT IT WAS ALL A DAMN LIE!!!

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND LOVE!

I'M IRRESPON-SIBLE...

...AND HOPE-LESS BY NATURE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO LOVE SOMEONE.

SO, INSTEAD...

I TOLD PRETTY LIES THAT WOULD MAKE EVERY-ONE HAPPY.

I HOPED THAT ONE DAY...

...THE LIES WOULD BECOME TRUE.

I WORKED HARD...

...TRIED MY BEST...

...AND PUT EVERY-THING I HAD INTO THOSE LIES.

TO ME, LIES ARE LOVE.

I THOUGHT I WAS EXPRESS-ING LOVE...

IN MY OWN WAY.

...WHILE I WAS SINGING SONGS ABOUT LOVE...

...BUT I DID ***WANT*** TO LOVE YOU...

I DON'T KNOW IF I WAS ABLE TO LOVE MY FANS...

...THEY WOULD BECOME TRUE.

PRAYING THAT SOMEDAY...

YOU DON'T EVEN RE-MEMBER ME!

I'M NOT LETTING YOU OFF THE HOOK WITH-

LIAR...

YOU'RE RYOSUKE-KUN, RIGHT?

YOU CAME TO MY HAND-SHAKE EVENTS A LOT.

EVEN NOW...

...I WANT TO LOVE YOU.

I LIKED THE STAR-SHAPED SAND YOU GAVE ME AS A GIFT.

I STILL HAVE IT DISPLAYED IN MY LIVING ROOM.

HUH? AM I WRONG?

SORRY, I'M BAD AT REMEMBERING PEOPLE'S NAMES.

WHAT...

...THE HELL?

AAAAHHHHH!

THAT'S NOT WHAT—

MAN, I LET DOWN MY GUARD, HUH?

I'VE—

I'VE CALLED AN AMBU-LANCE!!!

THIS IS WHY WE HAVE DOOR CHAINS.

AI!!!

THEY NEVER TAUGHT ME THAT AT THE ORPHANAGE.

DON'T TALK!

SORRY.

SQUEEZE

RUSTLE

TH-THE BLEEDING WON'T STOP!

DID HE GET YOUR ABDOMI-NAL AORTA?! DAMMIT!

RUSTLE

THIS PROBA-BLY...

...ISN'T SALVAGE-ABLE.

...

I DIDN'T.

ARE YOU OKAY, AQUA? YOU DIDN'T GET HURT, DID YOU?

I WONDER IF TODAY'S DOME CON-CERT WILL BE CAN-CELLED...

I'M SORRY, EVERY-ONE.

THE MOVIE SCHEDULE WAS FINAL-IZED TOO.

I'LL HAVE TO APOLO-GIZE TO THE DIRECTOR.

SLAM

SLAM

HEY...

WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT'S GOING ON OVER THERE...?

HEY, WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?!

DON'T COME, RUBY...

RUBY, YOUR DANCING AT THE RECITAL...

WAS REALLY GOOD.

I'VE BEEN THINKING...

...THAT IN THE FUTURE...

YOU MIGHT BECOME AN IDOL TOO.

IF ALL GOES WELL, SOMEDAY WE COULD PERFORM TOGETHER...

...AS MOTHER AND CHILD.

THAT WOULD BE FUN.

AND AQUA COULD BE AN ACTOR?

I WONDER WHAT KIND OF ADULTS YOU'LL BECOME.

AHH, I WANNA SEE YOU WITH BACK-PACKS...

AT YOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENTRANCE CEREMONY.

ON PAR-ENTS' DAY...

I WANT PEOPLE TO SAY, "ISN'T RUBY'S MOM TOO YOUNG?!"

I WANT TO BE BY YOUR SIDE, WATCHING YOU...

...AS YOU GROW UP INTO ADULTS.

UMM, WHAT ELSE...

OH...

I NEED TO SAY THIS.

I WASN'T A VERY GOOD MOM...

...BUT I'M GLAD I GAVE BIRTH TO YOU.

RUBY...

AQUA...

I LOVE YOU.

AHH...

I FINALLY SAID IT.

I'M SORRY...

...IT TOOK ME THIS LONG.

OH, THANK GOD.

THESE WORDS...

...DEFI-NITELY WEREN'T A LIE.

AI...

AI...?

AND SO...

...OUR SWEET CHILD-HOOD WITH AI...

...CAME TO AN END...

...AND OUR OWN STORY BEGAN.

B-Komachi Idol Ai (20) Killed By Stalker

10010

Today at around 11 a.m., the idol Ai-san was murdered at her home by a man who appears to be her fan.
A few hours later, the suspect attempted suicide and was pronounced dead at the hospital. According to police, Ai-san had just moved to a new address, so they are investigating the possibility of an accomplice.
It was announced that the dome concert that was to be held today has been cancelled.

EXTRA PAGES

ヤングジャンプ NOW!

【推しの子】 1

赤坂アカ × 横槍メンゴ

集英社

COVER DESIGN ▸ NIKU MAKIBUCHI(POCKET)

背表紙・カバー折り返し

※表記はコミックス発売当時のものになります。

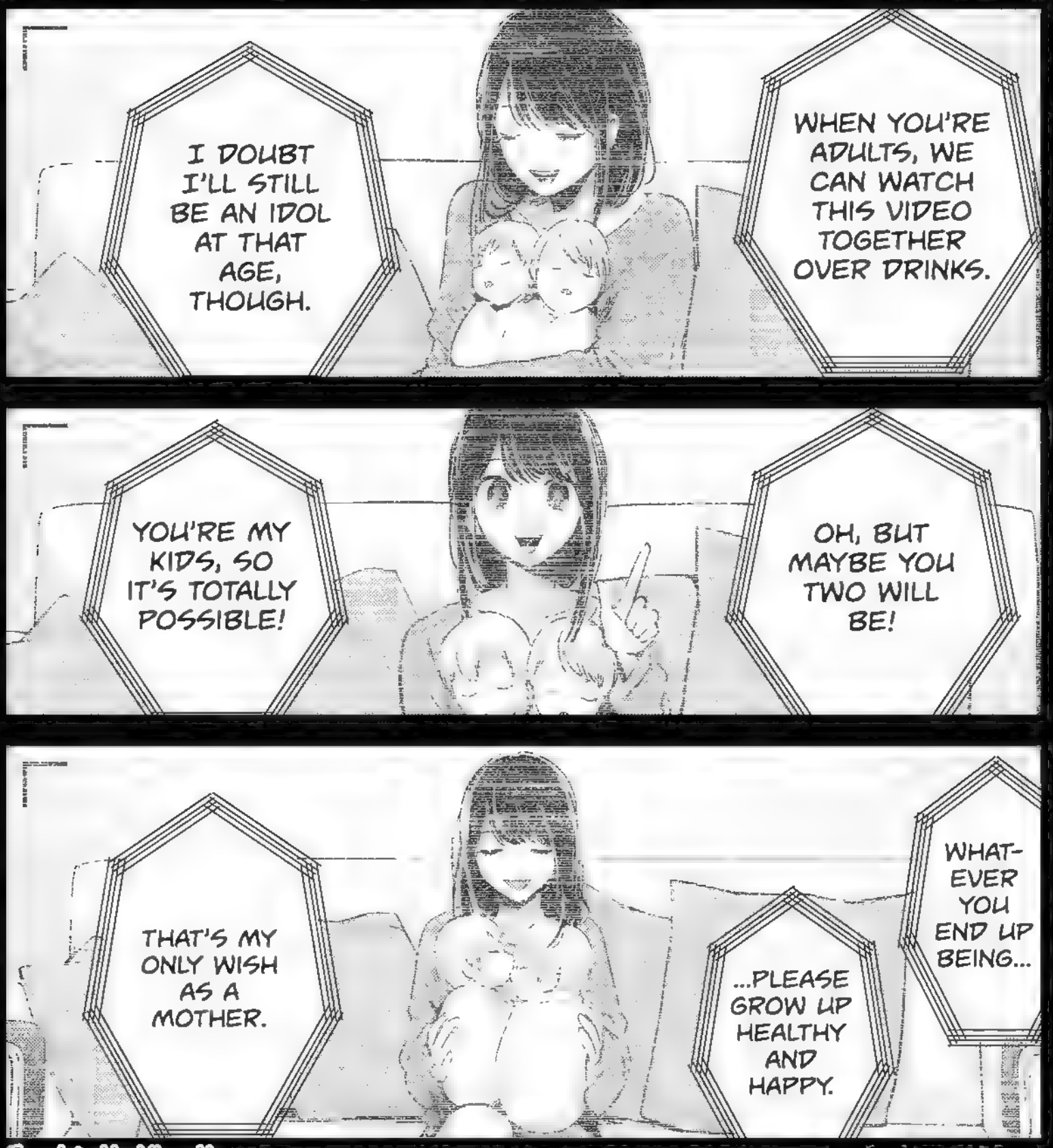
本体・表紙」

※表記はコミックス発売当時のものになります。

本体・裏表紙」

※表記はコミックス発売当時のものになります。

Interview #9
【Mother】Edition


I DOUBT I'LL STILL BE AN IDOL AT THAT AGE, THOUGH.
WHEN YOU'RE ADULTS, WE CAN WATCH THIS VIDEO TOGETHER OVER DRINKS.
YOU'RE MY KIDS, SO IT'S TOTALLY POSSIBLE!
OH, BUT MAYBE YOU TWO WILL BE!
THAT'S MY ONLY WISH AS A MOTHER.
...PLEASE GROW UP HEALTHY AND HAPPY.
WHATEVER YOU END UP BEING...

Translated by Minna Lin
Lettered by YKS Services, LLC
Edited by Jordan Reynolds
MEDIA DO Co. Ltd. / YKS Services LLC / SKY Japan, INC.

THE SENSATIONAL NEWS THAT AN IDOL WAS MURDERED BY A FAN...

AND THE KILLER COMMITTED SUICIDE...

...WAS CIRCULATING WITHIN AN HOUR.

CHAPTER 10
INTRODUCTION

...THERE WERE ATTENTION SEEKERS TREATING THE DECEASED AS A TOY TO PLAY WITH.

BUT AS EXPECTED...

OR PERHAPS I SHOULD CALL IT HUMAN NATURE...

Phone:
Paint |
Obsessive fans strike again
#Ai #

草
#アイ#ストーカー刺殺

Fish Luther
Lmao
#Ai #StalkerKiller

アイ嫌いだったから
へえ、ふーんて感じ
#アイ

BROTHER TIN
I hated Ai anyway, so I don't really care
#Ai

ストーカー規制の緩さが問題
安倍内閣の後手後手の被害者
#B小町アイ #ストーカー刺殺

Puff
Stalking regulations are too lax. She was a victim of the Abe Cabinet's reactive way of handling things. #BKomachiAi #StalkerKiller

Andonuts
Too bad, she had a nice face lol
#BKomachiAi #StalkerKiller

Phone:
Fishbone
This is too cruel

Konkon
I feel so bad for her

Bard
I'll never forgive the killer!!!
#InMemoryOfAi

Night Watch
R.I.P...

Heart Patrol
Why? Why? Why? Why? Why?

THE PUBLIC RESPONSE WAS MOSTLY SYMPATHETIC.

フィッシュボーン
あんまりだよ

こんこん
かわいそすぎる

吟遊詩人
犯人ゆるせない!!
#アイ追悼

夜の監視人
R.I.P.

はーとパトロール
どうして?どうして?どうして?
どうして?どうして?

...THERE WERE SOME THAT HIT CLOSE TO THE TRUTH.

STILL...

...WITH SO MANY SELFISH ASSUMPTIONS AND SLANDERS FLOATING AROUND...

SINCE WE WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE'S FAMILY REGISTER...

...THE MEDIA DIDN'T HONE IN ON US.

Hyakki Yako
The stalker found out that Ai had a man

11 302 114 78

Geek Geek
If that's true, it's not surprising she got stabbed to death

"NOT SURPRISING"?

WHAT?

WHAT?

IF AN IDOL FALLS IN LOVE, IT'S NOT SURPRISING FOR HER TO BE KILLED?

HOW DOES THAT MAKE ANY SENSE?!

YOU'RE JUST MAD YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRLFRIEND AND YOU'RE TAKING IT OUT ON WOMEN!!!

IT'S GROSS AS HELL!!! GO DIE!!!

ISN'T IT SELFISH TO DENY HER THE SAME FEELING?!

YOU'RE TOTALLY IN LOVE WITH AN IDOL!!!

DOES BEING FAMOUS MEAN THAT PEOPLE CAN SAY ANYTHING THEY WANT ABOUT YOU?

MAMA DIED...

BUT ALL THIS STUFF MAKES *ME* WANNA DIE TOO.

WHY IS THE INTERNET LIKE THIS...?

THAT'S WHAT HURT PEOPLE SAY TO PLACATE THEM-SELVES!

DON'T USE IT AS AN EXCUSE TO HURT OTHERS!!!

THAT'S NOT FOR YOU PEOPLE TO SAY!

THEY SAY THINGS LIKE, "THE CUSTOM-ER IS KING."

WHAT DO THEY MEAN, "THE PRICE OF FAME"?

AFTER THE NEWS WAS TAKEN OVER BY AN EARLY SNOWFALL THAT PARA-LYZED THE TRAFFIC NETWORK...

Screen: Heavy Snow

THE TOPIC OF AI'S DEATH...

WAS EX-HAUSTED WITHIN THREE DAYS.

NO ONE BROUGHT IT UP AGAIN.

Screen: NEXT: The Latest Cat Cafe!

RUBY WAS OUTRAGED BY WHAT PEOPLE WERE SAYING...

BUT IT DIDN'T LAST LONG.

...THE SNOW WAS COVERING UP AI'S DEATH.

IT WAS AS IF...

EVEN THOUGH PUBLIC INTER-EST WANED...

THE TWO OF US STILL HAD TO FACE REALITY.

Sign: Police Station

RUBY HAD BEEN DIS-TANCED FROM THE SCENE OF THE CRIME, HER VIEW BLOCKED...

...BUT I WAS FEELING AI'S BODY GROW COLD...

WHEN THE POLICE TOOK ME INTO CUSTODY.

BUT THE VICTIM COUNSELLING WENT ON FOR A LONG TIME.

BECAUSE OF MY AGE AND THE FACT THAT THE KILLER WAS ALREADY DEAD.

THE INTERROGATION HAD BEEN SIMPLIFIED...

...WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE MY CHILDREN FOR REAL?

HEY...

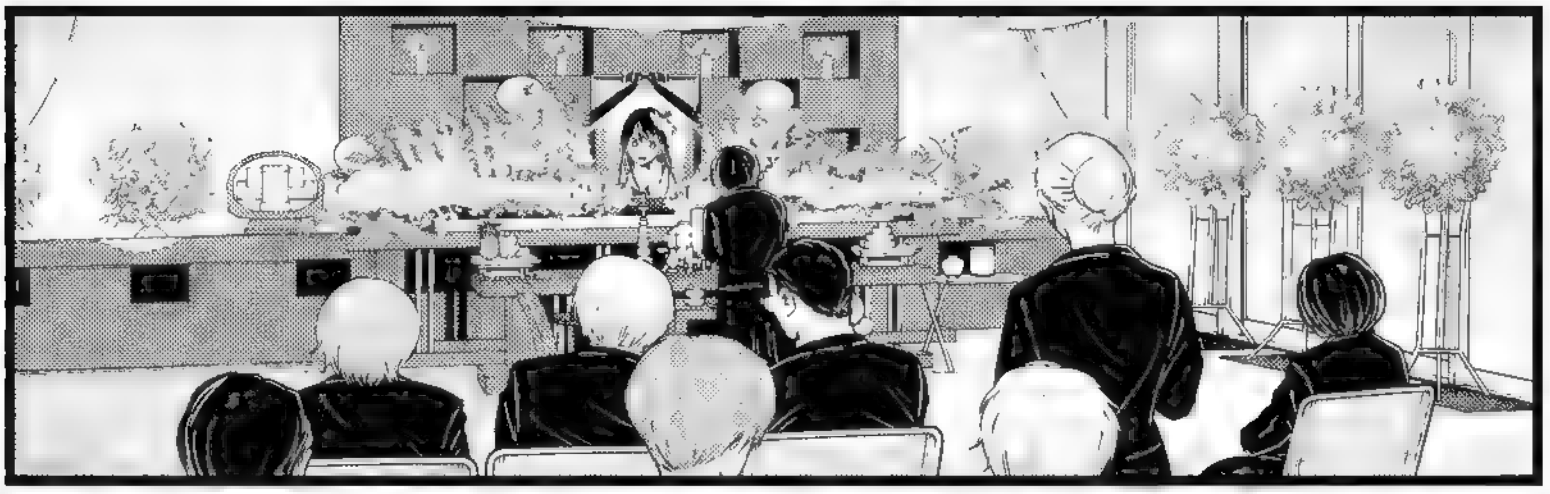
IF YOU TWO DON'T MIND...

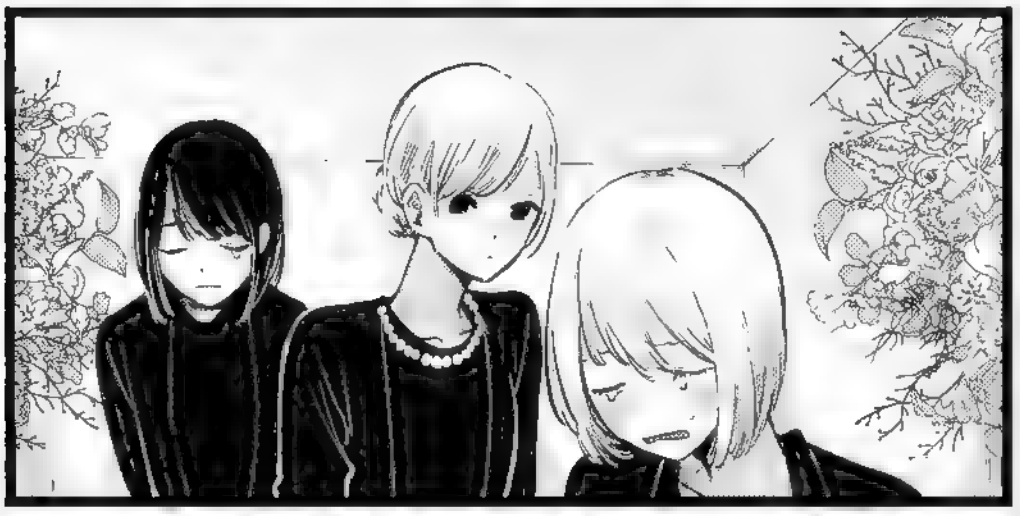
YOU DON'T HAVE TO THINK OF ME AS A MOTHER.

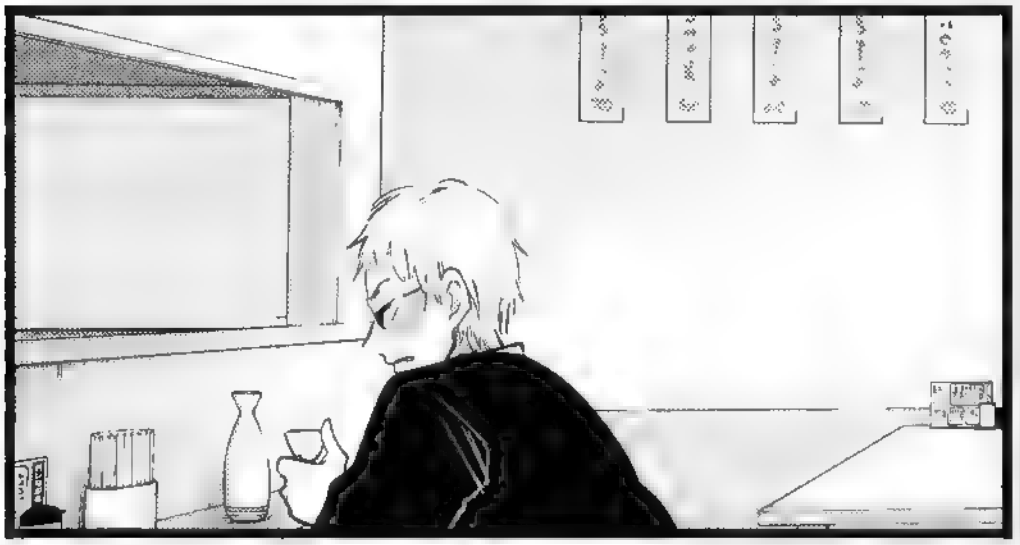
YOUR MOTHER WILL ONLY EVER BE AI-SAN, I KNOW.

...SO HOW ABOUT IT?

BUT I DO THINK OF YOU AS MY CHILDREN...







AQUA...
DO YOU THINK SOMEONE LIKE ME COULD DO IT?
I MIGHT BECOME AN IDOL.
MAMA SAID...

EVEN IF YOU COULD, WHY BOTHER?

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE MONEY, A DIFFERENT JOB WOULD BE FASTER.

FANS ARE ALWAYS SELFISH. IF YOU GET A BOY-FRIEND...

THEY'LL GANG UP ON YOU IN THE NAME OF "RIGHTEOUS-NESS."

YEAH...

BUT...

...MAMA WAS DAZZLING.

RUBY WILL PROBABLY GET OVER THIS.

AFTER SPENDING A FEW YEARS WITH HER...

I KNOW SHE HAS A PURE HEART, FOR BETTER OR WORSE.

BUT I—

THE CULPRIT COMMIT-TED SUI-CIDE.

I'VE ALREADY DIED ONCE ANYWAY.

A SECOND TIME WON'T MAKE A DIFFER-ENCE.

I DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN A WORLD WITHOUT AI—

HOW...

...WAS HE ABLE TO TRACK DOWN AI'S HOS-PITAL?

THE STALKER WAS THE SAME MAN WHO KILLED ME.

HOW...

...DID HE COME TO OUR NEW HOME WHEN WE'D JUST MOVED?

News· Student Bloody cr me scene

News 22 year old male

News Vic oos crime

HE COULDN'T HAVE POS-SIBLY BEEN ABLE TO DO THAT KIND OF DETEC-TIVE WORK.

THE KILLER WAS A STUDENT WITH NO SKILLS WHATSOEV-ER.

HE HAD AN INFORMANT.

AS FAR AS I KNOW, ONLY THE PRESIDENT KNEW ABOUT THE HOSPITAL...

BUT WOULD HE DO SUCH A THING TO HIS COMPANY'S TOP PERFORMER, WHO HE CHERISHED SO MUCH?

AND THAT PERSON ...

MUST BE FAIRLY CLOSE TO AI.

WAS IT A COLLEAGUE?

NO, B-KOMACHI'S MEMBERS AREN'T THAT CLOSE...

AND I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE THAT SEEMED LIKE THEY WERE AI'S FRIEND.

IT'S A KNOWN FACT THAT AI DIDN'T HAVE ANY RELATIVES SHE COULD RELY ON...

...AND SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO KNOW THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION EITHER.

THAT ONLY LEAVES...

...OUR FATHER.

...THEY WERE MOST LIKELY IN THE SAME INDUSTRY.

BUT CONSID-ERING HER NARROW SOCIAL CIRCLE...

SHE STUB-BORNLY KEPT HIM A SECRET FROM THE PRESIDENT TOO...

OUR FATHER IS IN THE ENTER-TAINMENT INDUSTRY.

...IS IN THE ENTER-TAINMENT INDUSTRY.

THE GUY WHO DID THAT TO AI...

I CAN'T DIE YET.

SO LONG AS HE AND I ARE RELAT-ED BY BLOOD...

I CAN IDENTIFY HIM BY DNA TESTING HIS HAIR.

...AND KILL HIM WITH MY OWN HANDS.

NOT UNTIL I FIND HIM...

I...

DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...

IT'S OKAY, I DON'T NEED YOUR CONDO-LENCES.

OH, IT'S YOU, GIFTED KID.

DIRECTOR.

WHAT IS IT?

INSTEAD, I HAVE A SMALL FAVOR TO ASK YOU.

...HUH?

DO YOU WANT TO RAISE ME?

THUS, OUR PROLOGUE COMES TO AN END.

HEY, YOU'RE STILL NOT READY, RUBY?

JEEZ! I SAID TO GIVE ME A MINUTE, AQUA!

THIS SCHOOL UNIFORM IS CUTE, BUT IT'S COMPLICATED...

DON'T MAKE US LATE ON THE FIRST DAY.

OH, IT REALLY IS CUTE! ♡

...ISN'T YOUR SKIRT TOO SHORT?

YOU'VE ALWAYS SOUNDED LIKE AN OLD MAN, AQUA.

...OH, THAT'S RIGHT!

THE CURTAIN RISES ON A NEW ACT.

WE'RE HEADING OUT, MAMA.

AND...

...I'LL BEGIN...

...MY REVENGE STORY.

Presented by

赤坂アカ × 横槍メンゴ

【推しの子】

★

★

★

Next Vol.2

2020.10.16 Fri.

発売予定。

【推しの子】

1巻

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